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THE TIMES

INTERNATIONAL EDITION

No. 64,446

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 24 1992

45p



GAZZA MANIA

Rome salutes its new hero

Page 30



UPPER CLASS LUST

Is this the real Lady Chatterley?

Life & Times, page 4



FOUL PLAY IN THE CIA

Harrison Ford on the run

Life & Times, page 3

British critics resent Kohl rescue

Germany bails out franc to preserve ERM

BY CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS AND JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

A BARRAGE from the combined artillery of the French and German governments yesterday stemmed the onslaught on the franc, but they may have won only a respite in their battle to resist any further realignment in the European Monetary System.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl ordered his troops to the rescue of the beleaguered French currency hours after agreeing with President Mitterrand that the ERM must be defended at all costs. As a fundamentally strong currency closely linked to the mark, the franc is effectively the last line of defence for a system in danger of unravelling.

The Bank of France and the Bundesbank issued a rare joint statement saying existing exchange rates between their two nations' currencies correctly reflected the reality of their economies, and that no change of rates was justified.

The political impact of the battle for the franc is less severe than the implications of the run on the pound for the British government. Interest rates are less sensitive in France than in Britain because mortgages and loans are at fixed rates.

In language that echoed that of British ministers a week earlier, Michel Sapin, the French finance minister, declared war on speculators. "When you are faced with speculation, the only thing to do is to make them pay the price for their speculation... During the Revolution, such people were beheaded," he said. Sources at his ministry

said the French government saw the attack on the franc as an attack on the whole EMS and would defend it at all cost.

At the same time, the Bank of France raised a key interest rate and intervened on a heavy scale to buy francs, pushing the currency up by three pence against the mark, from 3.4220 per mark to 3.3935 within minutes. The franc closed in Paris at 3.41, slightly beneath its floor in the ERM of 3.4305.

The Bundesbank has had to spend DM60 billion in the past week largely in vain efforts to prop up the lira and the pound, but also to support other endangered currencies, including the franc, peseta, punt and Danish kroner. Critics in Britain have accused Germany of doing more to support the franc than it did to support the pound, but in

financial terms Germany spent more to support sterling because of ERM rules. However the Bundesbank was more supportive in its public statements about the general level of the franc than it was about the exchange rate of sterling.

There is also a suspicion that the Germans made more effort to save the franc knowing that if it collapsed this would mean the end of the ERM. If the pound collapsed, it would mean only that Britain had to leave the ERM.

The continuing turmoil in the ERM came as Community leaders spoke of the need for changes to the Maastricht treaty but stopped short of calls for renegotiation. Herr Kohl called for an "interpretive statement" on the treaty to reassure Europeans that they would not lose their national identities, but said he was against reopening formal negotiations.

Poul Schlüter, the Danish prime minister, also called for additional protocols to make the treaty more democratic and open, but ruled out renegotiation, saying this could open a Pandora's box that would delay the process permanently if it killed it altogether.

The Italian prime minister, Giuliano Amato, said yesterday that he would support

Continued on page 16, col 8

Europe in crisis, page 11
Peter Millar, page 12
Leading article and
Letters, page 13
Banks move, page 17
Business Comment, page 19



Major to push for reform of 'flawed' money system

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND PHILIP WEBSTER

JOHN Major will today step up his demands for reform of the European exchange-rate mechanism by maintaining that the banting taken by the franc yesterday confirms that the system is flawed.

Downing Street said that the wave of speculative selling that forced a big rise in French interest rates was further evidence of the "significant stresses" within the ERM that the prime minister wants addressed at the EC summit he has called for October 16.

When MPs return to Parliament today to debate the economy, Mr Major will ask them to back a motion endorsing government economic policy. He and Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, will deny that there has been a policy U-turn, arguing that exceptional pressures forced sterling out of the ERM.

Only a handful of Conservative Euro-sceptics are expected

to withhold their support for the government in what many accept will amount to a confidence vote. The debate, however, seems certain to reflect the divisions that have resurfaced among Conservatives since Britain left the ERM.

The Labour leadership, which last night firmly rejected support for a referendum on the Maastricht treaty and adopted an avowedly pro-European stance, is determined to exploit the government's frailty and Mr Major's abandonment of his repeated commitments to defend sterling within the ERM.

John Smith, who will be making his first Commons speech as Labour leader, yesterday isolated shadow cabinet critics of his European line. Bryan Gould let it be known that he would abide by collective responsibility after earlier failing to support the new statement, but his future re-

mained in doubt after the disclosure that he would today preside over the launch of a policy paper attacking the leadership's ERM position.

Sir Edward Heath led a counter-attack by the Conservative pro-Europeans when he said it was intolerable for currency speculators to be allowed to ruin Europe's economies.

He said the only way to stop the speculators was to have a single currency.

"There is so much money in the hands of speculators that they have been allowed to pick off one country after another. They are not trying to pick off the French," he said.

Sir Edward urged Mr Major to reaffirm his commitment to place Britain at the heart of Europe, to put sterling back into the ERM as soon as practicable and to ratify the Maastricht treaty.

The discussions were at Mr

Major's request. He is talking

Debate preview, page 2

3,000 jobs lost as BAe closes Hatfield factory

By GEORGE SIVELL

BRITISH Aerospace yesterday announced the loss of 3,000 jobs and the closure of its historic Hatfield plant as part of a £1 billion reorganisation of its loss-making regional aircraft business.

Two thousand jobs will be lost at Hatfield, the birthplace of the de Havilland, Mosquito, Comet and Trident aircraft. Another 1,000 workers will go at Woodford and Chadderton, near Manchester.

The company also revealed a bigger than expected loss of £129 million for the first half of 1992, sending the share price down by 86 pence to 113 pence. John Cahill, the recently appointed chairman of British Aerospace, said: "For every pound of profit we made on defence we were losing 96p on regional aircraft."

John Weakley, the chief aerospace negotiator for the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, predicted that up to 3,000 service jobs would also be lost in Hatfield when the factory closes at the end of next year. BAe has cut 43,000 jobs since 1990.

A new joint venture is planned between the company and the Taiwanese Aerospace Corporation. Production of the advanced turboprop aircraft is to be transferred to Prestwick in Scotland. The company has applied to the Department of Trade and the Scottish Office for a grant to assist with transfer costs.

Details of BAe's joint venture with Taiwan have not yet been finalised. If it falls through and the BAe 146 plane is scrapped, British Aerospace says that its £1 billion provision will cover the cost of complete closure. The joint venture is intended to produce the

BAe 146 in both countries. The impact of the £1 billion provision on the British Aerospace balance sheet envisages up to 3,000 service jobs will be lost because shareholder and court approval will be required for the necessary financial reconstruction. In the first half of last year, British Aerospace paid an 8.9p a share dividend.

The City was appalled by the news from British Aerospace. One analyst said: "I am obviously staggered. The losses at the regional aircraft division were much bigger than expected and the cost of rectifying them is much greater than we thought."

British Aerospace said that if production of the BAe 146 had ceased, then 7,500 British Aerospace jobs would have been lost, plus another 20,000 at components suppliers.

The Labour party said that the news

went beyond job losses and would affect the very future of Britain's manufacturing industry. Derek Farnell, its shadow trade minister, said: "Today's announcement is another milestone in the decline of British high technology industry."

Tim Webb, the national officer of the white-collar Manufacturing Science and Finance Union, said that unlike the British government, the Taiwanese government was looking to the future. "There will be a transfer of technology from this country to Taiwan," he said. "The aerospace industry is crucial to the national economy and if that fails the whole of the economy will go down with it."

History crash lands, page 3
Leading article, page 13
£750 million provision, page 17
Offloaded, page 21

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Two characters in search of the leading role

JOHN Major and John Smith last faced each other across the Commons dispatch box as Chancellor and shadow chancellor on November 14, 1990.

Although the Tory leadership contest had just begun, Mr Smith did not even mention the possibility that Mr Major might be the eventual winner, as he was less than a fortnight later. It was not a glittering oratorical exchange, but many of the themes will recur in this afternoon's debate. Mr Smith wondered what the slogan would be for the next Tory party conference — "The challenge of leadership," "Combating unforeseen circumstances," and "Catching the train to Europe."

For both Mr Major and Mr Smith, today's debate will be not only their first direct

confrontation as prime minister and Leader of the Opposition but also a crucial test of their leadership.

Mr Smith has the easier case to make, but is also under the burden of the highest expectations. He made his name as a Commons debater when the government was in disarray during the Westland crisis of January 1986. Using all his Scottish advocate's skills, he exploited weaknesses in the government's position with wit and forensic skill. Labour MPs are looking for a repeat performance.

His speech will concentrate on the changes in government policy over Europe, particularly the floating of the pound. He will, one Labour adviser said yesterday, try "to force Mr Major to eat enormous numbers of words". Mr Smith has also been trying to ensure that

MAJOR v SMITH

Peter Riddell considers the precedents and background to this afternoon's heavyweight clash in the Commons

Labour presents a reasonably united front after the recent divisions. The overwhelming majority at yesterday's meeting of the national executive committee for a statement supporting closer European integration and the exchange-rate mechanism gives Mr Smith the backing he wants — even though Tory MPs will still be able to point to Bryan Gould's open dissent.

Mr Major faces the obviously harder task, because of the big gaps in government policy. In the week since the forced abandonment of the ERM,

ministers have sought to assemble a new European and economic policy, though there has been uncertainty within Whitehall itself about where the government stands. One senior official commented that he knew what the policy was only when he heard what Norman Lamont had said.

Mr Major will argue that the narrow French vote and the unresolved Danish situation mean that it is impossible to be precise about the Maastricht treaty until after the EC summit next month. He will claim that events are moving

in Britain's direction, despite evidence of a closer Bonn-Paris axis.

On the economy, Mr Major and Mr Lamont, who will speak at the end of the debate, will claim that there has been no U-turn since sterling was forced out of the ERM as a result of exceptional pressures and there has been no change in the basic goal of non-inflationary growth. He will be able to point to this week's pressure on the French franc as evidence that the ERM needs to be reformed. But they will be under pressure to explain the apparent change in policy of the past week — the contrast in past and present attitudes to floating and why it is now possible to cut interest rates. There are worries in the City that the easing of monetary policy will result in higher inflation and

postpone a return to the ERM. The cabinet will this morning discuss the precise line on the Maastricht treaty and the timing of re-entry into the ERM. There are clear divisions on this between a majority of ministers favouring a return within a few months, if not weeks, and others, a minority including some in the Treasury, supporting a long delay.

Mr Major will, for the first time in his premiership, be on the defensive, though, previously, when he was a social security minister, he showed his qualities as a partisan fighter when under pressure. He is assured of the support of his own backbenchers for a motion expressing support for government economic policy. But Tory backbenchers will be looking for him to provide a clear lead.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Piper Alpha owners sue rescue ship firm

The Occidental oil company, which is to sue its contracting companies in an effort to recoup millions of pounds it paid in compensation after the Piper Alpha disaster, is including in its action a shipping company which lost two employees as they battled to save lives (Kerry Gill writes).

Occidental has begun a series of actions at the Scottish Court of Session suing 26 companies involved with Piper Alpha, which exploded in 1988 with the loss of 167 lives. One company it is suing is Haven Shipping, of Great Yarmouth, three of whose employees were awarded the George Medal for heroism, two posthumously. The company's standby vessel Sandhaven was on contract to Occidental and, when the Mayday call was heard, made for the scene. Crewmen Malcolm Storey and Brian Batchelor died in the inferno; a third, Iain Letham, survived.

The rescue attempt was the firm's only involvement in the disaster. It is believed that Occidental is trying to recoup from Haven all the money paid to Mr Letham and the dead men's families, a total of almost £1 million. It is understood that Occidental is taking the actions as part of a complex argument over contractual indemnities against compensation payments made to companies that worked for it on the Piper Alpha installation.

DPP 'leak' criticised

The Director of Public Prosecutions was criticised yesterday for releasing information that raises questions about the innocence of one of the Guildford Four. A letter sent to the Woolwich and Guildford pub bombings enquiry also had information which, it was claimed, could prejudice the trial of three former police officers accused of perverting the course of justice. The information was in a letter, outlining the defence case, sent by a lawyer representing one of the men to the judge who is to hear the case next April. It was attached to a submission from Barbara Mills, the DPP, in which she responded to strong criticism by the enquiry chairman over the delay in bringing the officers to trial.

Threat over new tax

The introduction of the new council tax is being put at risk by the government's refusal to say how much it will allow local authorities to spend next year, council leaders said yesterday. Speaking after a two-hour meeting in London with Michael Howard, the environment secretary, senior councillors said that without a clear target it was impossible to begin planning budgets. Mr Howard, who has delayed the announcement of the financial settlement for local government from July to November, again refused to be drawn. He also refused to give any indication of the likely level of next April's bills. He has blamed the delay on the need to complete the valuation of 20 million homes.

Buses run on bio-fuel

A fuel made from plants is to be used to run buses in Reading, Berkshire. Three of Reading Transport's 200 buses will have their tanks filled with rape methyl ester, a diesel derived from oilseed rape, for a three-month trial. Paul Shepherd, the company's engineering director, said no modification would be made to the buses' engines, which are now powered by petroleum-based diesel. Experiments in other European countries suggest that "bio-diesel" has significant environmental advantages: there is no sulphur content and emissions of carbon monoxide and smoke particles are much reduced. The government has so far decided to subsidise the production of bio-diesel.

Safe landing

A Russian couple with no sailing experience have arrived in Britain after a 2,000-mile journey in a leaking yacht. Alexander and Galina Grashankin, both 45, set out from their home in St Petersburg at the end of July because there was no work there. After nine weeks on the yacht, which had no cooker and only candles for light, they came ashore at Warsash in Hampshire. Members of Warsash Sailing Club are providing homes for the couple until they attempt the next stage of their journey to the West Indies. Robert Hughes, the club's commodore, said: "I have nothing but admiration for them. They have sailed 2,000 miles in a 23ft boat which is just about Viking standard."

Hodge to leave politics

Margaret Hodge, the leader of Labour-controlled Islington council in north London, is to leave local politics to join the accountancy firm Price Waterhouse. Mrs Hodge, right, who made headlines in 1982 by flying the red flag from Islington town hall, is standing down at the end of next month. She will remain on the council until the end of her term but will not seek re-election in 1994. Mrs Hodge, 48, who is married with four children, is also resigning from her positions as leader of the Association of London Authorities and vice-chairwoman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities. She will be working four days a week at Price Waterhouse as a senior consultant in the public sector field. She said yesterday: "My post with Price Waterhouse will keep me very much involved with local government and the wider public sector."

Lawyer stole £1m

A lawyer was jailed for seven years yesterday for stealing more than £1 million from his clients in one year. Derek Chisall, 47, of Corringham, Essex, took the cash from funds he was looking after when his practice got into difficulties. Some of the money went to keep the firm going and the rest was used to subsidise an expensive lifestyle. He admitted 18 charges of stealing money between July 1988 and July 1989. He confessed when he was told the Law Society was coming to inspect his books.

Second victim identified

The second of two murdered 22-year-old British women found in bushland graves 85 miles southwest of Sydney at the weekend has been formally identified as Caroline Clarke after dental x-rays were flown to Australia. She and Joanne Walters went missing in April. Miss Walters was identified by dental records on Monday. Miss Clarke had been shot more than once in the head and Miss Walters had been gagged and stabbed repeatedly in the chest. Police have so far found no clues at the site.

Major to see Reynolds

John Major is to have talks with Albert Reynolds, the Irish prime minister, in London tomorrow in an attempt to resolve differences over when to hold a meeting of the Anglo-Irish conference. The British government is believed to be resisting pressure from Irish ministers for an early meeting because of fears that it could provoke Unionists to leave the all-party talks in Dublin on the future of Northern Ireland. The conference has not met for five months to allow talks on Northern Ireland to take place.

Smith freezes out shadow cabinet dissidents

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Smith yesterday closed the door on Labour support for a referendum and isolated shadow cabinet critics of closer European integration.

Bryan Gould, the shadow national heritage secretary and the leading Euro-dissident, was still in his job last night after agreeing to accept shadow cabinet collective responsibility for a European stance about which he is clearly unhappy.

But he will put the doctrine under immediate strain today by chairing the launch of a policy group's pamphlet that accuses the Labour leadership of betrayal in its move towards an enthusiastic European stance, including support for the exchange rate mechanism.

At the same time Mr Gould will return to his criticism of

LABOUR

the ERM and Maastricht in an article in the *New Statesman* to be published only hours after he agreed to back a policy paper endorsing both.

Earlier, when the paper was discussed by the national executive Mr Gould felt unable to support it and abstained. By not resigning after the shadow cabinet endorsed it he was making plain that he accepted collective responsibility.

Supporters of Mr Gould argued last night that the article was written before yesterday's meetings of the national executive and shadow cabinet and that he could not fairly be accused of breaching responsibility.

Mr Smith, determined to achieve a unified front and give himself the strongest possible platform for today's emergency Commons debate, persuaded the two meetings to adopt a paper strongly reaffirming Labour's Europeanism. It accepted the creation of a single currency, stable but adjustable exchange rates and eventual backing for a reformed ERM, provided it is coupled with measures to improve the strength of the economy.

The paper made no references to referendums or Labour tactics on the Maastricht



Bryan Gould, Labour's chief Euro-sceptic, leaving the NEC meeting yesterday

New policy attempts to seize high ground on Europe

WITH the Conservatives in turmoil over Europe, Labour's new policy statement is a clear attempt by John Smith to take the high ground for his party (Philip Webster writes).

In a high risk strategy after last week's upturn on the foreign exchange markets, the paper expressly endorses the principle of the exchange-rate mechanism and blames Britain's withdrawal last week on Conservative economic mismanagement and the underlying weakness of the economy.

In a strong restatement of Labour's Europeanism, the document says the British economy will continue to be closely integrated, both financially and industrially, with the EC.

"We cannot be expected to be able to defend our national interest or contribute to the progress of our own continent if Britain is pushed to the

periphery." It says that Labour supports "the principles of a managed system of fixed but adjustable exchange rates agreed through international co-operation". But it says that Labour has always agreed that for entry into the ERM to work successfully would require an economic and industrial policy designed to boost performance.

"It is Conservative economic mismanagement which lies at the heart of the present weakness of the pound and its withdrawal from the ERM.

Clearly any re-entry into the ERM requires the adoption of policies which strengthen our weakened economy."

The document, *Europe: Our Economic Future*, commends Labour to backing stronger controls to diminish the power and role of speculators. It says that the dramatic events of recent weeks demonstrate

clearly that in the long run the creation of a single currency would guarantee an end to currency speculation within the Community. It underlines Labour's past stance that real economic convergence is "a vital pre-condition" of economic and monetary union.

"Just as the ERM did not cause the recession, neither will our departure from it guarantee recovery."

The paper says that Britain should initiate discussions on the problems that arise from the Danish rejection of Maastricht.

"Unless that is done Parliament cannot proceed with the ratification bill. The Labour party recognises that recent events have produced a new and dynamic situation in Europe. This requires flexibility in the response of the whole Community in order to win the support of the people for a new way forward."

Clearly for the next general election.

The nationalists' four-year plan, in which members will seek to improve organisation, publicity and finances, will begin in earnest within the next few weeks. Activists will

Tories to rally round Major

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MOST Conservative MPs intend to put aside their differences over Europe and close ranks behind the prime minister in today's debate over the government's handling of the sterling crisis.

Leading members of the Tory Euro-sceptic faction indicated yesterday that they would "rally round the flag" as John Major defends himself against a Labour onslaught led by John Smith, its leader. Some of Mr Major's sternest critics on his own benches are prepared to back him in tonight's vote on a motion supporting the government's economic policy.

But a show of strength in the division lobbies will mount only to a temporary respite. During the debate, the government will come under attack from its own side, and its critics will signal their intention to return to the fray if Mr Major attempts to reinstate the bill ratifying the Maastricht treaty or to rejoin the European exchange-rate mechanism (ERM).

Mr Major will also come under pressure from senior figures on the other side of the

EURO-SCEPTICS

treaty. A single currency was the only way to stop currency speculators running the country, Sir Edward Heath, the former prime minister, said yesterday that he wanted Mr Major to reaffirm his goal of putting Britain at the heart of Europe. He should leave his critics in no doubt of his intention to rejoin the ERM as soon as practicable and to rally the

Gummer scorns sceptics

BRITAIN will have no chance of managing its economy successfully and protecting the environment unless it retains a place at the heart of Europe. John Gummer, the agriculture minister, said yesterday (Michael Hornby writes).

Those who resent the power of strong currencies cannot ignore them. We are directly affected in or out of the ERM," he told a conference in Cambridge on environmental-sensitive farming.

"Britain does not lose sovereignty by being a member of a wider international discipline any more than we would regain sovereignty by withdrawing from it."

Later Mr Gummer scathingly dismissed the "with one bound we are free" view of Britain's departure from the ERM. The Swedish experience showed that was not true, he said. Inside or outside, Britain could not allow its interest rates to become "out of kilter" with those in the rest of Europe.

Few could argue that the timing of the conference could have been better for a party that five months ago was promising a Scotland "free by '93". Mr Salmond, the sole political leader who forecast the destabilisation of sterling two years ago when Britain entered the ERM, said the conference must be the launching pad of a new campaign that would ensure victory at the next general election.

The nationalists' four-year plan, in which members will seek to improve organisation, publicity and finances, will begin in earnest within the next few weeks. Activists will

Nationalists find a refuge in UK crisis

By KERRY GILL

Party leaders refused to acknowledge any mistakes they may have made in the run-up to the general election.

The nationalists' four-year plan, in which members will seek to improve organisation, publicity and finances, will begin in earnest within the next few weeks. Activists will

SNP

campaign on the streets to warn over impending privatisation of water and the dangers of hitching the country to a government that may never regain its credibility.

Party leaders refused to acknowledge any mistakes they may have made in the run-up to the general election. Margaret Ewing, MP for Moray and the parliamentary leader, said: "The economic crisis shows why we must have independent Scottish control of our economy, free from the disastrous quick medicine of Westminster." She said that the fact that one in five Scots had voted for the SNP provided a sound foundation.

Second victim identified

The second of two murdered 22-year-old British women found in bushland graves 85 miles southwest of Sydney at the weekend has been formally identified as Caroline Clarke after dental x-rays were flown to Australia. She and Joanne Walters went missing in April. Miss Walters was identified by dental records on Monday. Miss Clarke had been shot more than once in the head and Miss Walters had been gagged and stabbed repeatedly in the chest. Police have so far found no clues at the site.

Major to see Reynolds

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British Aerospace decision to close Hatfield factory ends pioneering era in military and civil aircraft

Crash landing for six decades of British aviation history

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE decision to close the British Aerospace factory at Hatfield ends 62 years of aviation history during which Britain often led the world in aircraft design, innovation and manufacture.

In 1930, when Geoffrey de Havilland moved his company from Edgware to Hatfield, the market for civil aircraft barely existed. He was convinced that his simplified structures would succeed and over the years leading to the outbreak of war he turned out a stream of Tiger Moth and Moth Minor trainers, Leopard and Hornet Moth tourers, Dragon Rapide light transports, Comet racers, Albatross and Flamingo airliners and Airspeed Oxfords.

During the war, while the rest of Europe gathered its breath, de Havilland plunged back into the civil aircraft market with the Dove, an all-metal Rapide replacement, while military work continued with the Venom and the Sea Vixen.

The pinnacle of Britain's plane-making power was reached in 1952 when the Comet, the first jet airliner, flew for the first time on a revenue earning service, with

BOAC. The Hatfield-made Comet stirred the imagination of the world — and sowed the seeds for the decline of British aviation by stimulating the Americans to produce their rival, the Boeing 707.

Still the designers turned out revolutionary aircraft from Hatfield with the Trident and the DH 125 executive jets. Variations of the 125, now 30 years old, are still being produced by British Aerospace.

When de Havilland was absorbed into the Hawker Siddeley Group in 1960, almost all the 37,000 employees worked at Hatfield. Hawker Siddeley was itself merged into British Aerospace in 1977 and by then the world's aviation industry was changing.

The vast amounts of money needed to design, test and develop aircraft could no longer be afforded by one country, let alone one company.

As alliances formed between manufacturers in America, Japan and Europe, Britain gradually became a supplier of parts rather than an innovator. Concorde, the Tornado and the Airbus family of jets, now the mainstay of British Aerospace, are joint ventures with companies which, for many years had been rivals. Even the "British" 146, which is to be built jointly with the Taiwanese, is powered by American engines.

Nonetheless, Britain's aero-

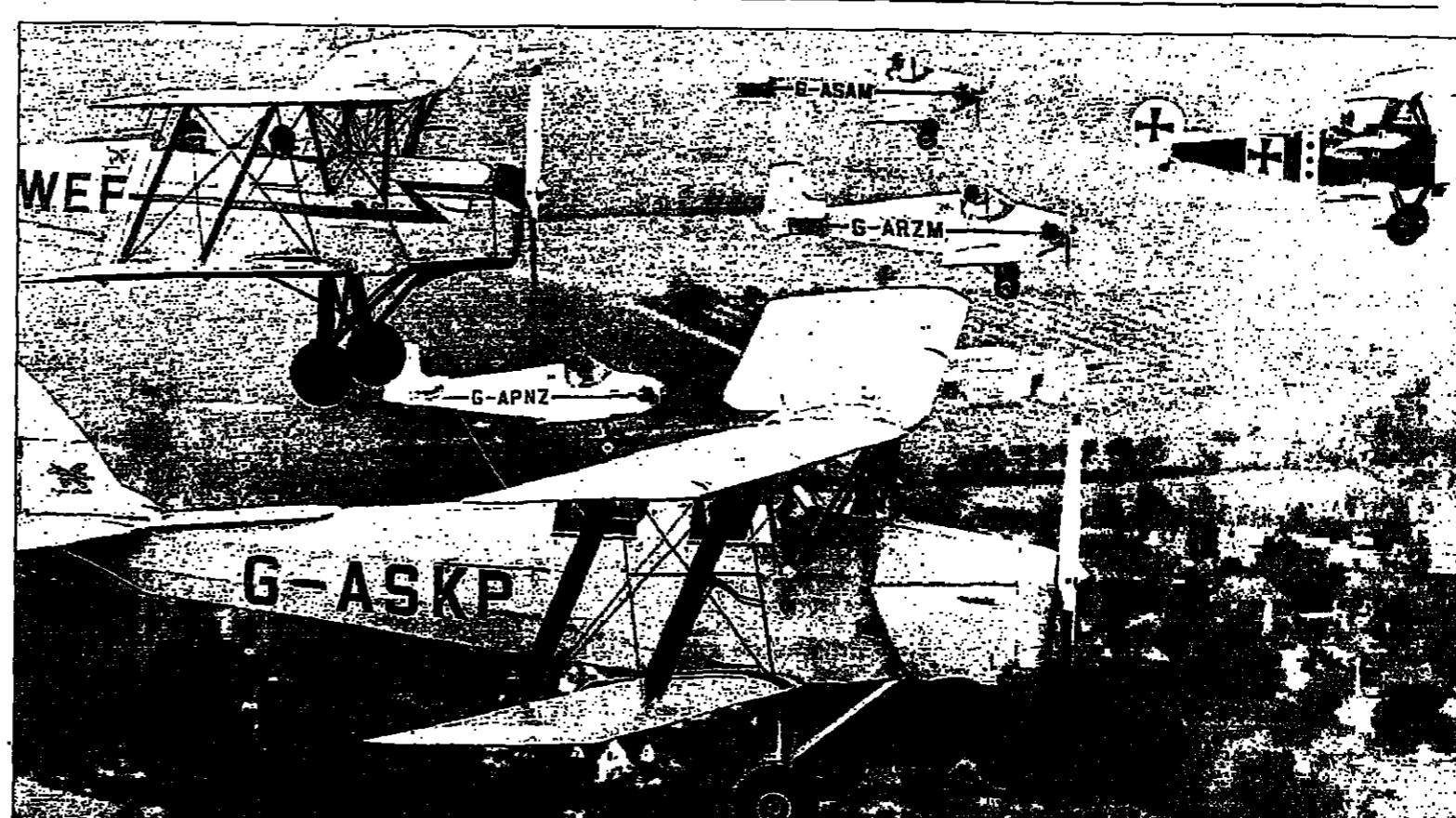
space capacity is second only to the United States' and research, design, development and manufacture continue, although increasingly on components. Apart from British Aerospace itself, Rolls-Royce is the biggest supplier of aerospace equipment. Dozens of other suppliers, including Dowty, Lucas and Smiths Industries, provide parts for aircraft made largely in the United States or on the Continent. The industry's turnover is more than 2 per cent of GDP and it produces 5 per cent of manufactured goods. Aerospace companies have contributed well over £16 billion to the trade balance over the past decade.

Although jobs have been lost in the industry, from a peak of almost 250,000 in 1981 to less than 170,000 today, there has been a big increase in productivity, allowing Britain to increase its share of the world's aerospace trade from 10 per cent in the mid-1960s to 17 per cent.

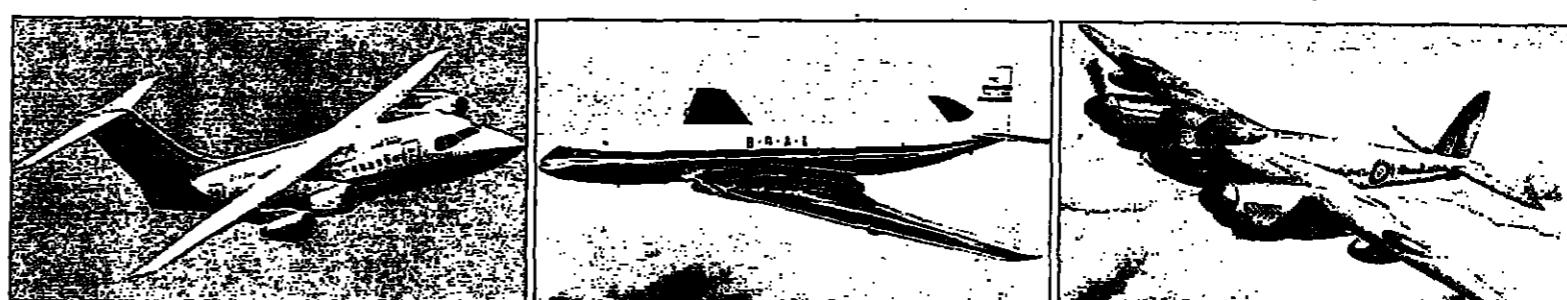
Until the recession is over, the short-term outlook is bleak. Rival companies in Europe are investing heavily in new products and designs while Britain's aircraft are based on old concepts. At the recent Farnborough air show many European and American aerospace executives said privately that it would be simpler and kinder if Britain's plane-making industry was allowed to die, enabling the factories that remained to concentrate on providing specialised parts for the global aircraft of the future.

Such a view, while hotly contested by diehards within an industry which engenders deep emotional attachments, is gradually becoming accepted by those who run it. The closure of Hatfield can only hasten the day when it becomes a reality.

3,000 jobs go, page I
Leading article, page 13
£750m provision, page 17
Stock market, page 20
Offloaded, page 21



Aviation pioneers: de Havilland, absorbed by Hawker Siddeley which later merged with BAe, built the Tiger Moth planes in the thirties



Masters of the skies: the BAe 146-100, a de Havilland Comet 1 passenger airliner and a de Havilland Blockbuster Mosquito bomber

From boom to bust and a future in the dole queue

HATFIELD, a town that swung throughout the sixties and confined its expansion in the seventies and eighties, is bracing itself for a bleak future in the nineties.

Its showplace Galleria shopping centre straddling the A1 motorway has suffered difficulties and is being run by new management. There is half-a-million square feet of vacant office space and 1.5 million square feet of empty factory space, most of it built since 1990.

The town's polytechnic was recently given university status. But the decision by British Aerospace to end manufacturing at Hatfield by the end of next year is being

seen by some as a blow to its pride from which the town will take years to recover.

David Riddle, chief executive of Welwyn and Hatfield District Council, said that the scale of the "disaster" was enormous and it would be impossible to calculate the effects on the local economy.

The council decided yesterday that it and the local Hertfordshire Training and Enterprise Council will spend £1 million trying to create jobs and to offer new training for those losing employment at BAe.

He said: "Hatfield is an aerospace town. If the de Havilland brothers had not located here in the 1930s the new town might not have

been built. BAe and its predecessors have provided not only a source of employment directly but the very foundations of the technological and engineering skills base of this area.

"The closure will have a very grave impact. One in every 18 workers in the district is employed by BAe. four

in ten BAe employees live in Welwyn and Hatfield and about eight in ten in total live in Hertfordshire."

Mr Riddle has also calculated that many other companies, suppliers, contractors and local services and shops will be affected. BAe has been spending £15 million a year in supplies from other Hertfordshire companies and the local authorities calculate that £12 million a year in consumer spending power has been poured into the area by workers.

He expects that the latest BAe redundancies could be followed by another 1,300 in other companies because of the closure.

The district, like most other

Sambas recall life of laughs

By TIM JONES

FRIENDS from the world of showbusiness and many fans turned a memorial service into a jolly occasion when they paid their respects yesterday to the man who became, through television, the most successful comedian the world has ever known.

St Martin-in-the-Fields, London, reverberated to the music of a Latin American trio which played the sambas that Benny Hill had loved. Then Max Bygraves sang a song.

Mr Hill, 67, died alone on April 20 in his flat in Teddington, overlooking the Thames. Henry McGee, who played his straight man, said: "Somewhere, every hour of the day, someone is watching a Benny Hill show."

"He was a most extraordinary, ordinary man who gave the world's funniest bone a tweak."

A sombre note was provided by the author Anthony Burgess, who claimed Britain had let Mr Hill down with accusations of vulgarity and sexism. His covaritions with the scantly clad Hill's Angels were really "a mockery of male sexuality," the impossible in pursuit of the unobtainable, he said.

Weeping man tells of killing baby

By A STAFF REPORTER

A MAN described to a jury at the Old Bailey yesterday how he snapped and killed his "adopted" baby son when he was unable to stop him crying.

Frederick Feathers, 20, wept in the witness box as he said: "I had no intention of hurting him in any way."

Feathers, unemployed, admitted throwing five-month-old Harry Gurney — the child of his girl friend Joanne, 19, by a previous relationship — on to a bed at their flat in Barking, east London, causing him to strike his head on a wall. He denies murdering the baby on October 31 last year, but the prosecution has rejected his plea of guilty to manslaughter.

Feathers told the jury he moved in with Miss Gurney in April last year, knowing she was already pregnant. "I knew she was thinking about a termination," he said. "But we talked about keeping the baby and felt we could cope. I like children, so we decided to give it a go."

After the boy was born in June last year, seven weeks premature and weighing only 3lb, he visited him in hospital every day for more than two months. "It was great when he came home," Feathers told the jury. "It was what I always wanted."

Neil Taylor, QC, for the defence, read the text of a card that Feathers had chosen for Miss Gurney. "Of all the precious gifts in life, the best must surely be, a baby who brings added joy into a family. And in this little welcome a family are wishes for you all, including really special ones for a baby sweet and small."

On October 30 last year, Feathers said, he woke Harry while cleaning the flat. "I tried everything to try and stop him crying," he said. "I walked into the bedroom, held him in front of me and shook him violently. Then I threw him on the bed. His head struck the wall."

Under cross-examination by John Bevan, for the prosecution, Feathers conceded that he had been alone with the boy for only 15 minutes while Miss Gurney was out buying cannabis.

The trial continues today.

ITN chief wants end to D-notice

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE editor-in-chief of ITN yesterday called for abolition of the D-notice system. The arrangement has for 80 years brought together Whitehall mandarins, editors and broadcasters to decide whether to suppress stories thought to threaten national security.

Stewart Purvis said the discretionary system, whose existence will be reviewed at a D-notice committee meeting on October 21, should be replaced by informal guidance from individual government departments. The guidance would have no legal force and each department would assume responsibility for queries about its interpretation. Mr Purvis is a member of the committee.

John Wilson, controller of BBC editorial policy and also a member, said that while he found the system "uncomfortable" he did not think the media should get rid of it. "It is as benign as a toothless old dog. And that's the way I'd like to keep it," he said.

Church vacancies drying up

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE problem of unemployment could be facing the Church of England, which has traditionally provided a stipendiary job to all those genuinely called to serve God as an Anglican priest.

In a letter to *The Times* today, an ordinand at Salisbury and Wells theological college says that he has written to nine dioceses looking for work and been unable to find a vacancy. Anyone training for the stipendiary ministry can be ordained only into a title in the Church of England, so a would-be priest who cannot find a job has to postpone ordination.

At least one ordinand, a partially-sighted woman who completed her training last year, has been unable to find a title or curacy, to allow her ordination to take place. In the Bradford diocese, a newly-

ordained priest who completed his first curacy has been unable to find a job as a vicar.

Some clergy believe the problem could worsen if the church votes to ordain women to the priesthood in November. The Right Rev Hugh Montefiore, former bishop of Birmingham, said some women were waiting for a vote in favour before putting themselves forward for ordination training.

Bishop Montefiore said evidence from New Zealand and America showed a surge in numbers seeking ordination could be expected if the church agrees to women priests.

In a recent *Church Times* article, Bishop Montefiore asks whether the church will be able to afford jobs for all its clergy if the increase in women clergy exceeds a con-

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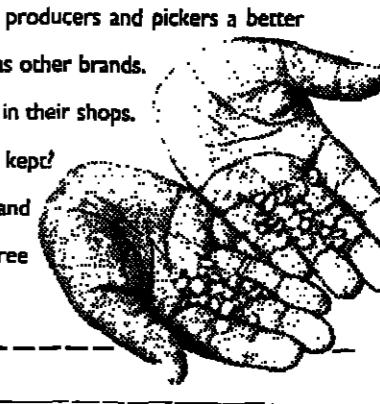
Brazil, early 1992. In 90 degree heat a mother and four children squat on the ground furiously scooping beans out of cocoa pods. They will work for eight hours. Only the mother will be paid, and it will be below the minimum wage of 78p per day.

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Fast exit: part of the
Order of Service

Letters, page 13

Ban all students with poor English, Patten tells university heads

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

UNIVERSITIES should refuse to admit students whose spelling and grammar is not satisfactory. John Patten, the education secretary, said yesterday in a new assault on standards in schools.

Addressing a vice-chancellors' meeting in Exeter, Mr Patten urged academics to speak out if they believed schools' standards were falling. "The academic community should not simply stand on the sidelines and complain. Nor should it seek to do the job of schools for them," he said.

Standards of grammar and spelling were of particular concern to some people in the universities. Whether or not overall standards were falling, schools had to give more attention to their pupils' basic skills.

A recent survey of undergraduates found that standards of basic English had declined over the past five years. Some universities have

considered running remedial courses to cope with the problem.

Mr Patten said: "If schools fail to provide the quality of candidates sought by universities, that is no argument for universities themselves to provide courses to bring them up to scratch. Talk of an additional and essentially remedial foundation year for undergraduates is simply not on.

Forget it."

He urged the vice-chancellors to make their requirements known to schools. "If pupils cannot meet your requirements, don't admit them. That will ensure that schools adapt and improve," he said. "Don't simply complain about the standard of English. Decide precisely what you expect of applicants and exploit the opportunity offered by the review of national curriculum English."

The vice-chancellors were left under no illusions about

the prospects for extra funding to meet the government's demands for expansion. Mr Patten said unit costs would have to be cut further to accommodate more students.

Higher education would receive a fair share of public spending, he said, but the total would be constrained for the next three years.

Mr Patten also maintained an uncompromising stance on lecturers' pay, standing by his veto of a 7 per cent pay deal made by the vice-chancellors in May. "I have to take into account both government policy to bear down upon public expenditure and the need to link pay to performance. I take personal responsibility for this, and will continue to do so," he said.

He promised new negotiating machinery for next year's pay round. The machinery would give universities more scope to set their own pay levels, with national negotiations conducted by a new employers' organisation.

Vice-chancellors are still considering whether to take legal action to try to remove the veto and free £24 million held back from university budgets pending a settlement acceptable to the government. The issue will be discussed this morning, but a final decision will be taken in concert with the Association of University Teachers.

■ Independent school heads want their brightest pupils to begin university courses in the sixth form because many are not being stretched sufficiently by A levels.

The Headmasters' Conference, which represents 233 independent schools, has begun talks with state school heads on a joint approach to the universities. Informal contacts have brought a positive response from some of the former polytechnics.

Vivian Anthony, the conference secretary, raised the plan yesterday at the heads' annual meeting in Bruges. He said: "There is a feeling that some of the changes that have been implemented in some subjects have left the brightest pupils with slightly fewer demands than they had in the past. This would fill a gap left by S levels, which have now practically disappeared."

Today the former polytechnics account for 83 per cent of all mature students and have arguably done most to boost the proportion of 18 to 21-year-olds in higher education from one in eight to one in five over the past five years.

Many of the new universities already franchise the first year of degree courses to further education colleges.

Polys take 39 steps to join high table

BY DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CORRESPONDENT

A decision by university vice-chancellors to admit the heads of the former polytechnics to their own exclusive club is a mark of how far the polys have come in the past two decades.

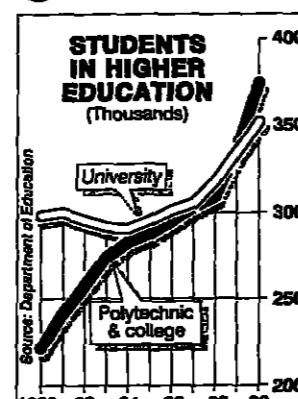
Once derided from the high table as little more than technology colleges, the 39 polytechnics were kept out of the counsels of the great by the so-called binary line that separated them from universities until earlier this year.

After 21 years under local authority control, the polytechnics were given independent status last year and this spring they won the right to become universities awarding their own degrees. Vice-chancellors bowed to the inevitable yesterday and ushered the former polys to the seats at the high table they had coveted for so long.

As they did so, the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals recognised that its new members represented an even bigger challenge to the way they run their institutions than spending cuts they suffered during the past decade.

Polytechnics came from nowhere in the late 1960s to challenge the supremacy of the universities by educating more students from a wider social background at less cost. In 1988, universities received £5,800 a student compared to the polys' £3,500 and by last year they had 22,000 fewer degree students than the newcomers.

Students without A levels, people with vocational qualifi-



cations and mature applicants with no advanced qualifications were accepted for courses where teaching methods often raised university eyebrows. Subjects such as management studies were pioneered in polytechnics, which saw their mission as being to respond to the needs of the working world. Mature students, attracted by courses relevant to their careers, flocked in.

Today the former polytechnics account for 83 per cent of all mature students and have arguably done most to boost the proportion of 18 to 21-year-olds in higher education from one in eight to one in five over the past five years.

Britain's first polytechnic was created 154 years ago in Regent Street, and is now the Polytechnic of Central London. It was founded by Quintin Hogg, grandfather of Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone. After the Robbins Committee report of 1963, eight new polys were created in 1969. Today, of the 39, all but four have adopted the title university.

Beaten pupil goes to court

THE family of an English schoolboy slipped on the bottom by his boarding school headmaster at the age of seven yesterday accused the government of breaching his human rights.

Lawyers for Jeremy Costello-Roberts told the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg that the corporal punishment inflicted on the boy constituted "inhuman or degrading treatment" outlawed by the Human Rights Convention, to which Britain is a signatory.

Jeremy received the beating, which consisted of three strokes, in 1985. His mother Wendy complained to the

police and to the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, but they both told her that they could take no action as the boy had no visible signs of bruising.

The family began legal proceedings, lodging a complaint with the European Commission of Human Rights, which vetoes applications to the court.

Jeremy changed schools in 1986. It was five years before the commission declared the case admissible, arguing that the punishment did not amount to degrading treatment but that it did breach another article of the convention, which safeguarded "the right to respect for private

and family life". The court was told yesterday that Jeremy had been reprimanded by a teacher for being in a corridor and for being "a little late" to bed on one occasion, earning his fifth "demerit" mark for similar conduct.

The penalty at the unnamed school for acquiring five marks was corporal punishment and after consulting his colleagues, the headmaster administered a "slapping" with a gym-shoe, hitting Jeremy three times through his shorts.

The judges will not deliver their final verdict for several months after yesterday's one-day hearing.

Eco-tourists threaten Third World havens

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

NEW breeds of supposedly ecology friendly holidaymakers were warned yesterday that by pushing further into "undiscovered" parts of the world, they are causing as much harm as the mass package tourists of the past.

Dr Erlet Cater, of Reading University, told a conference at the Royal Geographical Society in London that the increase in "eco-tourists" visiting the Third World was causing damage to the environment and to the lifestyle of its populations.

"Because eco-tourists try to go deeper into the fabric of the countryside, they are often more difficult to control than the mass of conventional tourists." Dr Cater said.

While visitors search for ever more remote areas, the cost of maintaining them falls on the impoverished Third World country involved.

Dr Bob Prosser, of Birmingham University, warned of the "new religion" of ecotourism. "It is a form of economic colonialism. Not only do tourists penetrate every nook and cranny of the Earth, they have the assumption that they have every right to do so," he said.

"People still go on holiday for prestige. Getting a sun tan is still a central part but equally important is where that tan was obtained. Marbella and even Mauritius no longer count. Now it has to be Mauritius."

MoD spent £123m on doomed air project

BY SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A TEAM of MPs severely rebuked the defence ministry yesterday for wasting £123 million over eight years in a failed attempt to convert three TriStar aircraft into airborne refuelling tankers.

The Commons public accounts committee also criticised errors in the specifications for a battlefield system which cost £11 million to correct; the lack of a Nato identification system to reduce the risk of killing friendly forces; excessive secrecy on routine projects; and a missile system that has been heavily delayed and trebled in costs.

The cross-party committee of MPs said that the second-hand TriStars were bought in 1984. The ministry could not convert them and abandoned the project earlier this year.

The committee said that the most serious deficiency in Nato air defence is an identification system to distinguish friend from foe. Nato officials conceded in 1971 that they needed such a system and the MPs indicated that it might have prevented the deaths of nine British soldiers from "friendly fire" in the Gulf.

The committee also criticised errors in the specification for a battlefield target engagement system (Bates), which links artillery batteries and target-finding systems, has had an equally troubled history. The MPs said that the specification "ran to 17 volumes and has over 7,000 pages, but despite this complexity it contained many errors and inconsistencies. These problems have resulted in 1,300 amendments which cost some £11 million to implement."

The MPs unravelled the hitches in collaborating with other countries to develop an advanced short-range air-to-air missile to replace the Sidewinder. It took 13 years for the programme to reach full development and costs rose by 200 per cent.

The ministry agreed to be less secretive about the costs and timing of projects after complaints by the MPs.

■ Commons committee of public accounts tenth report: *The 1990 statement on major defence projects and the 1989 summary of post-costing activity* (Stationery Office: £11.85).

NEWS IN BRIEF

Theft gang trapped by children

Six school friends were hailed as heroes for trapping a gang of thieves staging a £50,000 raid on a sports factory.

The six staked out the plant, noted descriptions of the men and recorded the registration mark of their lorry and van. Judge John Prosser, at Cardiff Crown Court, said yesterday: "This was as marvellous as the boy scouts on those wires less shows I listened to as a child. Your actions were absolutely commendable."

He ordered a reward of £50 each for Kirk Higgins, 12, Sian Hughes, 14, Paul Davies, 13, Tudor Hughes, 13, Neil Burland, 14, and Richard Duckfield, 16, all of Garw Valley, Mid Glamorgan. Gang member Peter Weston, 37, of Bristol, Avon, was jailed for three years for burglary.

Damages deal

Anthony Gilbey, a member of the wealthy Gilbey family, yesterday accepted "substantial" undisclosed libel damages and a public apology over a report in the *News of the World* that implied he had been wrongly acquitted of a charge of gross indecency.

Nausea attacks

Fifty firefighters have suffered nausea since tackling a blaze after a fatal explosion at the Hickson International chemical plant in Castleford, West Yorkshire, on Monday.

Youths accused

Philip John Barbour and Paul Ashley Chapman, both 17, of Reigate, Surrey, were remanded in custody by town magistrates for 28 days yesterday charged with murdering Ruth Denyer, 76.

Murder alleged

Anthony Clapham, 31, of Newport, Gwent, was yesterday charged with murdering Sian Collier, 24, manager of a Ladbrooke's bookmakers shop. Magistrates remanded him in custody for a week.

Worker killed

Robert Stainforth, 36, a North Sea gas worker of Grimsby, Humberside, died when hit by the helicopter he was guiding on to a landing pad on the Viking Bravo platform.

We investigate the man behind The Singing Detective



IN THIS week's Times Saturday Review we explore the dark and bizarre world of playwright Dennis Potter. Ginny Dougray reveals more about him than even his highly autobiographical plays have done.

To Russia with love.

Peter Hughes travels for a long weekend to Moscow and discovers how the evil empire has given way to a friendlier one, which takes Visa.

Grand plans.

Bryan Appleyard talks to Will Alsop, a brilliant architect whose work has always been

considered too radical to be taken seriously - until now. He is the man chosen to put his mark on the traditional face of Paddington Station.

A good weekend's reading.

Cheap ways to update your wardrobe, Stephen Bayley on the menace of the urban cyclist and Clement Freud talks porridge with Derek Hatton. Plus Jonathan Meades is in Brighton this week on his tour of restaurants, cafes and dives.

THE TIMES

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Joyriders on twisted ego trip

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

MOST teenage joyriders are school failures who believe they are very good or exceptional drivers and take cars for excitement, to give themselves a sense of importance and to impress friends, according to a survey of youngsters involved in car crime.

Jeff Briggs, who carried out the survey among 200 youths at Walker, Newcastle upon Tyne, said the term joyrider was an accurate description of the experience of taking vehicles. "They get a good time, an enormous amount of joy out of joyriding," he told a conference on car crime in London yesterday.

The picture of a joyrider that emerges from the survey is of a male teenager with a disrupted family background where there is unemployment. He has little academic ability and a record of truancy.

The joyrider needs to impress his friends with involvement in accidents and the possession of police charge sheets, which provide additional status and prestige.

The judges will not deliver their final verdict for several months after yesterday's one-day hearing.

"People still go on holiday for prestige. Getting a sun tan is still a central part but equally important is where that tan was obtained. Marbella and even Mauritius no longer count. Now it has to be Mauritius."

Leaked file lists only 88 staffed stations after BR privatisation

BY PATRICIA TEHAN

THE privatisation of British Rail will lead to at least 2,600 job losses at hundreds of stations, putting passengers' safety at risk, rail unions said.

The Rail Maritime and Transport (RMT) union and the Transport and Salaried Staffs Association (TSSA) said confidential documents leaked to them show that only 88 stations will be fully staffed during the hours that trains are running if privatisation goes ahead. BR refused to comment on what might happen after privatisation and said that union claims were speculation and guesswork.

The company confirmed, however, that its policy of checking tickets on trains instead of in stations will continue. A spokesman said: "In some circumstances it is better for customers if staff are on trains instead of in stations where they have less value to the travelling public."

Jimmy Knapp, general secretary of the RMT, said that between 2,600 and 4,000 jobs

at 800 stations are likely to be axed in the next five years. He said this would leave 2,668 stations without any staff for at least part of the day. A union survey of Britain's 2,556 stations shows that 1,668 are unstaffed or partially staffed, a 20 per cent increase over last year.

Richard Rosser, general secretary of TSSA, said that the cuts would lead to an increase in accidents, violence, attacks on women and vandalism. He said that if the plans are implemented, "women and older people will become frightened of using the public transport system".

Union figures show staffing levels at stations have fallen from 12,000 in 1988 to 8,000. The unions claim the support of BR managers for their campaign against privatisation.

Jim Morgan, infrastructure manager for the southwest division of Network South East, wrote to David Wilshire, Conservative MP for Spelthorne, about problems

experienced by a passenger using Ashford station, Surrey. Mr Morgan wrote: "All information systems that have been fitted at Ashford have now been destroyed by vandals. We are finding it almost impossible to recruit staff at this station. During the evening after the peak period, the duties can be dangerous. This paints a depressing picture but reflects reality."

Under the government's privatisation plans BR will be split into two businesses. Railtrack will own the tracks, signalling and infrastructure, the other will operate services, some of which will be franchised.

BR has reopened the dispute over the Channel Tunnel link by admitting it is considering options for the line south of Detling in Kent. This section was considered settled,

with the remaining arguments concentrated on the stretch between Detling and the King's Cross terminus.

Union Railways, the BR subsidiary responsible for the link, says alternative options are being examined for the stretch between the Channel and Detling. These include abandoning the tunnel planned to take the route under Ashford and running the track beside the M20.

A BRITISH nurse has won an award for her part in transforming the lives of 100 Romanian children who are suffering from Aids and HIV (Liz Jenkins writes).

In the two years since Karen Finlayson arrived at Coletina Hospital in Bucharest many of the children, who were withdrawn and unresponsive, have improved dramatically. The team of

nurses she led, from the charity Health Aid UK, spent months cleaning and improving the filthy conditions in which the children were kept, and training local nurses.

Her Nurse '92 special commendation, and a cheque for £450, was presented by Princess Margaret at the Savoy hotel in central London.

Sally Meekin, 44, a nursing adviser who works with

police who become victims of violence in Northern Ireland, received the title Nurse '92 and a cheque for £3,000 in the awards run by Nursing Standard and Bupa nursing. Her work involves helping officers hurt in explosions, gunfire, petrol bombings, intimidation and assault and giving support to people who suffer from working in an atmosphere of violence.



Meekin: helps police officers in Ulster

Outstanding care: Karen Finlayson from Edinburgh has revived Romanian children who suffer from Aids

Aids nurse wins accolade

STATIONS THAT KEEP STAFF

The 88 stations expected to retain full staffing — all 800 other stations at present fully staffed are to be partially or completely staffed. Scotland: Aberdeen, Dundee, Perth, Glasgow Central, Glasgow Queen Street, Edinburgh, Motherwell. Wales: Swansea, Cardiff. London (mainline): Charing Cross, Liverpool Street, Victoria, King's Cross, Paddington, Euston, Fenchurch Street, St Pancras, London Bridge, Waterloo, Cannon Street. Rest of England: Norwich, Ipswich, Peterborough, Luton, Bedford, Cambridge, Colchester, Harwich, Lincoln, Sheffield, Worcester, Gloucester, Leicester, Derby, Barking, Nottingham, York.

Consultants' fees highest in Europe

BY JEREMY LAURANCE

BRITISH hospital consultants are inflating the cost of private medical insurance by charging higher private fees than in the rest of Europe and America, says a new report.

Consultants can earn six times the rate they are paid by the NHS for the same work.

A few surgeons earn over £4,000 a day by fitting in at least five major private operations, but most do less work and have daily earnings of £750 or below. About 12,000 of Britain's 19,000 consultants do some private work, with the top 1,200 earning around £200,000 a year on top of their NHS salaries. About 30 per cent of private work is done before 9am, after 5pm or at weekends.

The fees charged are 60 per cent higher on average than in the United States, Spain and Australia, 170 per cent higher than in France and four times higher than in Germany and Canada, says the report, commissioned by Norwich Union Healthcare.

The system for setting private consultant fees in the UK is being investigated by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Medical insurance premiums could be cut by 20 per cent if fees were

lowered, said David Cavers, managing director of Norwich Union Healthcare.

William Laing, a health economist and author of the report, said that the NHS benefited from the "subsidy" paid by the private health insurance companies. "There would be a much stronger lobby for higher NHS salaries if it weren't for the private practice bonanza," he said.

The report says that privately practising consultants "are among the best paid occupational groups in Britain", exceeded only by main board executives of private companies and senior barristers.

Private work made up 31 per cent of their income in 1990 compared with 13 per cent in 1975.

Britain is slipping down the European health league as other countries achieve bigger reductions in death rates from a range of "curable" conditions, according to researchers at St Thomas's Hospital, southeast London. They have found sixfold differences in death rates from conditions such as breast cancer and leukaemia in different parts of the country and up to twentyfold between parts of Europe.

CONSULTANTS' PRIVATE FEES					
	UK	USA	Aus	Can	Spain
Hysterectomy	3.2	2.3	1.6	0.6	2.7
Hip replacement	4.2	4.5	2.4	1.4	4.0
Haemorrhoidectomy	1.8	0.8	1.1	0.3	0.7
(piles)	2.6	1.6	2.0	0.4	1.0
Vascular veins					0.7

(Figures based on per capita gross domestic product)

Watchdog demands voice for patients

AN INDEPENDENT health service inspectorate should be set up to investigate hospitals and GP services where there have been complaints about doctors and standards of care. The National Consumer Council says in a report yesterday (Alison Roberts writes).

An inspectorate similar to those for schools, prisons and the police should represent the neglected interests of patients, the council says. Doctors monitored each other's performance and "keep the results to themselves".

Ann Smith, a council spokeswoman, said that the members of clinical and medical audit groups were drawn from the health service professions. "We see the inspectorate as a troubleshooter

with the power to investigate hospitals and GP services where questions have been raised about standards of care by patients, local authorities or community health councils. The main point is that patients have a voice. We were promised a patient-centred health service with the reforms, but the government has not delivered."

The British Medical Association said that existing complaints procedures were adequate. "The doctors who investigate others are completely independent."

The council also calls for a new system of no-fault compensation for victims of medical accidents, allowing patients to make claims without having to prove negligence.



Outstanding care: Karen Finlayson from Edinburgh has revived Romanian children who suffer from Aids

Open-plan pubs 'foil drug deals'

BY STEWART TENDERL

CRIME CORRESPONDENT

DRUG dealers could be put out of business if public houses and betting shops were redesigned, senior police commanders were told yesterday.

Chief Supt Alan Edwards, commander of a London police division, said that the traditional design and poor lighting of public houses provided "rent-free accommodation for drug dealers". He told the annual conference of the Police Superintendents Association in Blackpool that some brewers and betting-shop chains had been persuaded to introduce open-plan interiors so that dealers could not hide in nooks and crannies.

Local authorities had helped to halt dealing on the streets, Mr Edwards said. In west Kensington, the council had been persuaded to cut down trees and improve lighting where dealers congregated.

Supt Eric Brown, of west London, said that crime prevention and co-operation with local authorities was a long-term strategy. For example, the peak age of criminality was now 15 and police and planners should consider how to half ten-year-olds sliding towards crime and how to provide good facilities for them in five years' time.

Mr Brown said that bylaws covering the height of fences and walls might need to be changed and alleyways closed.

Leading article, page 13

Dixons

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Au revoir, Africa?

TODAY, as parliament reconvenes to discuss our financial problems, is the deeper crisis in Africa being forgotten?

Right now famine, war and debt are putting the lives of 40 million people there under threat.

And the only thing the leaders of the world's rich nations are doing is threatening to make things worse.

There are rumours not of an increase in aid but of cuts – deep cuts. At the same time governments including that of the UK, are planning to slash the European Community's aid budget by some £200,000,000.

Meanwhile, in Africa, Oxfam sees people struggling to survive a double crisis – famine and financial destruction.

In Somalia, conditions are so severe that relief workers now round up the numbers of dead to the nearest 10,000. (Oxfam reports warn that Mozambique is only weeks away from becoming a "second Somalia").

And Africa's resources continue to be drained by their needs to pay off debts to richer countries. Ethiopia is just one example. While they try to rebuild their lives after years of civil war, the people are burdened with a debt so great that paying it off will use up almost half the country's foreign currency.



Photo: Andrew Wizard/Select

Under this sort of pressure, new-born hopes for peace, democracy and development in Africa could well be shattered.

For years, Europe's leaders have been promising to do something to help tackle the problems of Third World poverty. But somehow there always seems to be something more important.

The cynical amongst us might say they were turning their backs on the poor. Over the

next few weeks, our leaders have the chance to prove the cynics wrong.

Oxfam believes that the UK should set an example to Europe by increasing its aid budget. As president of the European Community we should reject the proposed reduction in EC aid. And the government should call for the G7 Finance Ministers to meet to agree measures to reduce Africa's debt burden.

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Perot campaign comeback would upset the form card



Perot: already on the ballot in all 50 states

ROSS Perot's threatened re-entry into the presidential campaign is probably the best news that President Bush has had since the more cheerful days of the mid-summer. It was, after all, the Texan millionaire's withdrawal from the race — dramatically announced at the end of the Democratic convention in July — that first opened up the yawning poll gap between the president and Bill Clinton, his Democratic opponent.

Of course, even if he finally declares his candidacy (something he never formally did even before July), no one expects Mr Perot to retain anything like his former popularity with the voters. He has been too badly bruised by the charge that he brutally let down his own supporters for that to be possible, and the kiss-and-tell stories told from

Although the Texan millionaire is not likely to regain his full popularity, his return may swing the vote, writes Anthony Howard from Washington

inside his campaign have hardly helped either.

Yet he undoubtedly remains a public phenomenon. His somewhat dour book, *United We Stand*, is currently top of the non-fiction paperback bestseller lists and can command television appearances at the beckoning of a finger. The mere fact of his reappearance in the contest could yet throw all the cards up in the air, and that can hardly be anything but helpful for the president.

The Bush campaign has so far signally failed to play its

strengths; but those strengths, as with every incumbent, still have some considerable residual power. The Republicans, for instance, still have in reserve the taxation card: the issue that above any other brought John Major victory in Britain last April.

Mr Clinton's aggressive attacks on the president's handling of the economy may have been effective so far but he will be lucky to get away with his promise that his own economic programme will involve a tax increase only for those earning more than

\$200,000 (£117,600) a year. This is one issue where Mr Perot, with his emphasis on stern fiscal rectitude, would clearly emerge as a co-belligerent, if not an actual ally, of the

best Mr Perot can now hope for is 5 to 6 per cent of the national vote. As he is a proud man, that may deter him from becoming an active campaigning candidate. (His name is already on the ballot in all 50 states.) But, since few expect this election ultimately to be decided by a margin wider than that, he still probably has it in his power to determine the result — if no longer by the direct route of the electoral college.

At the Republican convention, Mr Bush announced that he would seek to "define" his opponent. He has so far failed to do so. But if Mr Perot comes in with sharply etched positions on issues from the budget deficit to the need for cuts in welfare spending, this is bound to throw the fuzziness of many of Mr Clinton's own policy stands into sharp relief. The "Slick Willie" gibe could yet make its mark in the polling booths.

Most estimates suggest that

persuade voters to re-examine the personal and ideological credentials of the Democratic candidate. For someone who has now had a double-digit poll lead for more than three months, Mr Clinton remains a strangely unknown quantity: his support may look broad but it is also ominously shallow.

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Most estimates suggest that



Bush: has the taxation card still in reserve

Clinton accuses Bush of dodging debates on TV over economy

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush yesterday rejected a second plan for proposed debates with Bill Clinton, the Democratic presidential candidate, making it likely that for the first time since 1972 the contenders for the White House will not meet face-to-face.

Also yesterday, it emerged that James Baker, the Bush campaign chief, had on Tuesday had a surreptitious meeting at his Washington home with Ross Perot, the Texas billionaire who is threatening to re-enter the presidential race because, he says, neither candidate is addressing America's economic problems. The meeting was requested by Mr Perot, who had earlier met Ron Brown, the Democratic party chairman, in New York.

Mr Perot's animosity towards Mr Bush is well known, but it seems likely that he was exploring the extent to which either candidate was prepared to accommodate his demands for deficit reduction, spending

cuts and tax increases. While his re-entry as a third candidate would probably be to Mr Bush's advantage, the Republicans fear that he might yet endorse Mr Clinton.

Mr Perot's re-entry would certainly kill outright the dimming prospect of presidential debates because Mr Bush would refuse to share a platform with him. Even without Mr Perot, sources in the Perot camp believe that television debates before an audience of perhaps 70 million would benefit Mr Clinton, even though Mr Bush trails his challenger by a two-point margin. The chances of arranging debates will diminish as election day nears because the candidates would have less time to recover from mistakes.

The new proposal of the bipartisan commission on presidential debates suggested that the first confrontation be held next Tuesday in Louisville, Kentucky, replacing a vice-presidential debate. A second presidential debate would be held in Richmond, Virginia, on October 15.

Mr Clinton quickly accepted, but the Bush camp again said no. It insists that the two campaigns, not a third party, should determine the timing and format of any debates.

Mr Baker has been holding out for two debates, not three, so that only one would focus on domestic policy. He also wants the traditional panel of questioners who tend to jump from subject to subject, rather than the one proposed.

Mr Clinton is doing his best to exploit the president's cynicism. In Lansing, Michigan, where the first debate was supposed to have been held on Tuesday, he quoted Mr Bush's criticism of Jimmy Carter's reluctance to debate with Ronald Reagan in 1980: "I believe he wants to avoid debate because he wants to avoid talking about his economic record. I mean, how do you debate the merits of an economic policy that put 1.9 million people out of work?" Under Mr Bush, added Mr Clinton, three million Americans had lost their jobs.

Mr Bush spent Tuesday campaigning in the six states surrounding Arkansas, damning Mr Clinton's record as the state's governor with a torrent of highly selective statistics. Mr Clinton responded by unearthing past praise of his gubernatorial achievements by Mr Bush and accusing the president of skirting Arkansas just as he was skirting the state.

Mr Bush yesterday proposed \$20 billion (£11.7 million) in tax breaks and deregulatory measures over five years to help small businesses. Late the previous evening, he had quietly vetoed a bill permitting employees to take unpaid leave for a child's birth or during a family emergency. Mr Bush said that the bill would hurt businesses, but Mr Clinton and a string of Democratic congressmen claimed the veto made a mockery of the Republicans' professed support for traditional family values.

Britain gave £1.27 billion in aid last year, of which just under half — £521 million — went to Africa. The total British aid budget for 1992-93, including multilateral aid given through bodies such as the United Nations and World Bank, is £1.83 billion. This is projected to rise over the next two years to £1.89 billion next year and £1.97 billion in 1994-95.

Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, said yesterday that Britain could afford a doubling of its foreign aid budget, and thought that this would be possible by the end of the century.

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

AFRICA is about to suffer the most serious cut in Western aid programmes for decades, according to full-page warnings published today by Oxfam in national newspapers, including *The Times*.

The relief agency says leaked reports point to a dramatic reduction in British aid to Third World countries. At the same time Oxfam says the European Community is proposing to reduce its aid budget by £200 million, which would wreck plans to establish an emergency aid reserve. And the agency says the annual governors' meeting of the World Bank which ends today, has ignored calls for a debt moratorium and increased resources for Africa at a time when the continent is crippled by debt, drought and famine.

The Overseas Development Administration would not comment on reports of a huge reduction in British aid, saying any changes would be announced in the autumn statement by Norman Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in November. But rumours circulated last week that the Overseas Development Administration's budget is one of several government departments, along with agriculture, transport and the Scottish and Welsh offices,

that will suffer sharp budget cuts.

Oxfam said the combination of cuts would undermine fragile political and economic changes in African countries and would cause long-term instability. Southern Africa was facing its worst drought and famine in living memory. The need for aid and debt relief had never been greater.

"As president of the EC, the UK must not turn its back on Africa," Oxfam said. "Just because the financial markets in rich countries sneeze, Africa must not be blown off the international agenda. The UK and EC must reject attempts to cut aid."

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Africa faces drastic cut in Western aid

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR



Gloria mundi: the singer Gloria Estefan applauding a speech at the United Nations General Assembly, where she was a guest of American delegates

Allies seek frozen Baghdad assets to pay for UN work

FROM REUTER IN WASHINGTON

THE United States and its allies plan to press for a United Nations resolution, possibly this month, to release frozen millions of dollars in Iraqi funds to pay for UN inspections and humanitarian work in Iraq, and for Kurds in northern Iraq and Shia Muslims in the south.

The money, in banks in America and Europe, may be sought quickly by the US-led coalition that defeated Iraq in the Gulf war. When asked if it could happen this month, the official said: "I would not be surprised. It will be several hundred millions of dollars initially. What we will have hopefully, is a United Nations resolution that will set up an authorisation and a mechanism for defreezing the assets."

Some banking officials have voiced reservations, suggesting

that it might jeopardise the ability of banks to attract deposits from countries that fear their future loss. But the administration official insisted yesterday that Iraq should pay for UN inspections for weapons of mass destruction, and for UN humanitarian aid to Kurds in northern Iraq and Shia Muslims in the south.

"What it [the money] will provide us with is a large pool of resources — giving us the ability to carry out an open-ended programme of UN inspections, humanitarian support and so forth," he said.

The coalition will also press other countries which have no frozen Iraqi assets to provide financial help for the UN work in Iraq under previous UN embargos against Baghdad.

He repeated earlier statements by American officials that an allied "no-fly" zone

over southern Iraq was preventing air attacks by President Saddam Hussein's military machine against the Shias. He said that Saddam had been weakened by the air-exclusion zone and by Jordanian steps to tighten its border with Iraq to prevent smuggling which violates the UN embargo against Baghdad.

"I feel the pressure, rather than declining, is actually increasing against Saddam, in large part because of the much-improved Jordanian performance on sanctions — not perfect, but much improved," the official said.

• Patriot claim: Patriot missiles used against Iraqi Scuds in the Gulf was intercepted only a few incoming warheads, a success rate dramatically below Pentagon claims, according to a draft congressional report.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Girl wins \$5m after birth swap

New York: A Florida teenager, given to the wrong parents at birth, will receive more than \$5 million (£2.9 million) in damages from the hospital where she was born in a settlement approved by a federal court this week (Ben MacIntyre writes).

Kimberly Mays, 13, and Arlene Twigg were born in 1978 in Hardee Memorial hospital in Wauchula. The swap went unnoticed until Arlene underwent tests in 1988, just before her death from heart disease. The investigation proved that Ernest and Regina Twigg were not her biological parents.

In 1989, Robert Mays agreed to submit Kimberly to genetic testing. When geneticists confirmed that the babies had been swapped, both sides sued the hospital. The battle over custody continues.

Talks agreed

Dubai: Iran and the United Arab Emirates have agreed to hold talks in Abu Dhabi over the disputed Gulf island of Abu Musa that Tehran effectively annexed. (Reuters)

Cuban act

Miami: The US Congress is ready to pass an act that will increase economic pressure on Cuba by forbidding American firms in third countries from trading with the island.

Leader elected

Hanoi: General Le Duc Anh, 72, a Communist party official and Vietnam's senior military officer, has been elected president. He was the sole candidate. (Reuters)

Tomb project

Cairo: Egypt and the Getty Conservation Institute of America have announced a project to find ways of rescuing paintings in Tutankhamun's tomb. (Reuters)

Battle of sexes

Brisbane: The contest to find the toughest man in Australia could be won by a woman because the organiser has opened it to both sexes. (AP)

Japanese press flocks to ruffle feathers of disgraced rare species

FROM JOANNA PITMAN
IN TOKYO

DAY and night, in scorching heat and in rain, they perch precariously on tiny fold-up stools, their knees bunched up beneath their chins. Some pick at lunch boxes of cold rice and fish, others flip through comic books, but most just let their heads fall forward in fitful and impossibly uncomfortable sleep, the technique honed from a lifetime of long hours in cramped commuter trains.

They are Japan's crack teams of reporters and photographers, waiting with zoom lenses and tape recorders for a semi-endangered species to emerge from hibernation. "This one's a tricky

assignment," said one jaded journalist. Had he been a nature reporter, his quarry might have been some graceful lesser spotted marsh bird. But he is a top political correspondent, and for the past 27 days he and his colleagues have been standing weary vigil outside the large redbrick Tokyo home of Shin Kanemaru, the disgraced former vice-president of the ruling Liberal Democratic party, who is known to most Japanese as the "godfather" of national politics.

Implicated in the country's 18th and arguably ugliest postwar political scandal, Mr Kanemaru has remained under a kind of self-imposed house arrest since his admis-

sion, almost a month ago, that in June 1989 he took delivery of a 500 million yen (£2.2 million) cash gift from Hiroyasu Watanabe, the then president of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin, an ambitious trucking firm. In a suitably repentant statement on August 26, Mr Kanemaru resigned as party vice-president and apologised for accepting and failing to report donation which was five times the legal limit. He appears to believe that his verbal claims of contrition will satisfy Japan's legal establishment.

Huddled with party advisers in an inner sanctum of his home, he is refusing to speak to the teams of public prosecutors who knock regularly on his bolted front door,

politely asking him to submit himself for questioning at the Tokyo district court. Mr Watanabe was in the dock at the Tokyo district court yesterday, on the first day of his trial, pleading innocent to charges of breach of trust and of offering illegal loans to the head of Tokyo's largest yakuza (gangster) mob. But Mr Kanemaru's considerable political clout has rendered his home invisible so far. The only visitors allowed beyond those expensive portals, apart from the delivery boys who keep his larder stocked, are trusted party colleagues.

Last Thursday, Mr Kanemaru celebrated his 78th birthday at home, welcoming 30 senior MPs who made the

pilgrimage bearing gifts of exotic flowers and bottles of sake. Journalists stationed outside reckoned that the party was rather a jolly affair.

and Mr Kanemaru has since settled back into his routine of watching television, playing mah jong and exercising up and down the back stairs with his dog.

His colleagues have clearly made a point of coming out in sympathy, for Mr Kanemaru's plight could have fallen any one of them, given the culture of corruption which saturates the party.

The circumstances and the size of the Sagawa donation were, however, rather unusual. According to the *Asahi* newspaper, on June 9, 1989, Mr Watanabe, then president of Sagawa, drove to a garage beneath Mr Kanemaru's office. There he unlocked his car boot and unloaded so many carrier



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US wants war crimes trials for atrocities in Yugoslavia

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

ONLY a day after the Serb-led rump of Yugoslavia was expelled from the United Nations General Assembly, the Western powers yesterday began discussing an American proposal to set up an international commission to prosecute those responsible for war crimes in the former Yugoslav republics.

Washington has presented the United Nations with a list of what it considers credible allegations of murder, the torture of prisoners, deliberate attacks on non-combatants, and the mass deportation of civilians known as "ethnic cleansing". Most of the alleged war crimes are attributed to Serb forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina, although some charges are also levelled at Croat and Muslim troops.

Among the allegations in

Anti-Yeltsin camp steps up attacks

FROM ANNE McELVOY
IN MOSCOW

CRITICS of President Yeltsin's reforms in the Supreme Soviet yesterday intensified their calls for the Russian government's resignation. But Yegor Gaidar, the reformist acting prime minister, won a breathing space when his opponents failed by 130 votes to 30, with 28 abstentions, to win a vote of no-confidence in his government.

The tactical alliance of communists and nationalists who wish to see the administration removed and slow down Russia's transition to a market economy has drawn fresh strength from the fate of the rouble. The currency dived again on Tuesday, for the second time in less than a month, when traders on the Moscow exchange frantically bought dollars as insurance against inflation. The rouble now stands at 241 to the dollar, from 205 at the end of last week.

The atmosphere at yesterday's parliamentary session was ill-humoured and reproachful as MPs accused Mr Gaidar of hiding the true state of the Russian economy behind promises of improvement in the next quarter. But he got unexpected support from Vice-President Alexander Ruskoi, fierce critic of the cabinet, who said that Mr Gaidar should retain his post.

ST PETERSBURG NOTEBOOK

City tells Britain to carry on spying

BY ANNE McELVOY

Old habits die hard in Russia, and nowhere harder than in the security ministry, successor to the KGB, which has given a less than cordial welcome to Barbara Hay, the new British consul-general in St Petersburg. Despite being appointed a year ago, she is still languishing in enforced luxury in the Grand Hotel Europe because the Foreign Office has been unable to secure a suitable building to house her.

Anatoli Sobchak, the city's controversial mayor, recently stepped in to help, offering elegant 19th-century quarters near the town hall to the great relief of Miss Hay, who promptly prepared to pack her bags. But the decision enraged local security chiefs, who claimed that cables carrying government information from the town hall run under the building. As a result they are casting undiplomatic doubts on Britain's haste to occupy it.

"It is British intelligence which wants access to our cables," thundered Andrei Korodkikh, the ministry's liaison officer before lapsing into the strained tones which are a nostalgic reminder that, while the KGB may be dead, its voice lives on: "In case a decision is taken in favour of granting access to a foreign country, the precedent will have been set for the British intelligence service to se-

cure access to classified information using various technical means and devices. This would not be a healthy development."

The ministry's word however is no longer law. The city council has voted to back the mayor and approve the consular move. "If British intelligence really wants to listen in on all the municipal squabbles, they are welcome to it," one council insider said.

Russia is not traditional. It is the place to come in search of the fashion season's new collections, not unless you have a penchant for elasticated waists and purple acrylic. The first oasis has, however, appeared in the desert with Escada, the international fashion house, opening for business.

The shop has chosen premises in the Passage on the Nevsky Prospekt, the chandelier shopping mall that attracted wealthy wives in pre-revolutionary days, but now offers little more than kitchen hardware and those ubiquitous Russian dolls.

Little wonder that modern housewives descend here in droves to indulge their dreams, if not actually to buy. At one display, for instance, a young insurance clerk was glumly calculating that a single blouse would cost her entire salary for a year.



Sitting it out: Milos Stojanovic, a member of the Yugoslav delegation staying on alone after Milan Panic, the country's prime minister, walked out of the United Nations before the General Assembly vote that suspended Yugoslavia's membership in the world body. Serbia's ruling Socialist party reacted angrily yesterday to the expulsion of Yugoslavia, saying that the move was "illegitimate" and a "flagrant contradiction of UN rules and practices"

(Tim Judah and Dessa Trevisan write from Belgrade). Mihailo Markovic, a top party official who is close to Slobodan Milosevic, the Serb president, said: "There will be no re-application, at least until we get an interpretation from the International Court in The Hague."

Mr Markovic cited Russia's succession to the old Soviet seat and Pakistan's retention of its seat after the secession of Bangladesh as examples

of what he claimed was the international legal norm. The fact, he said, that Mr Panic had applied for membership for the "new Yugoslavia", composed of Serbia and Montenegro, against the wishes of parliament, did not mean his downfall was imminent.

"What he has done is not legally binding until parliament ratifies it, and that is normal in every country." The opposition said the expulsion was an indictment of Serbia's leadership.

World ostracises 'Yugoslavia'

UN puts Belgrade in a legal limbo

BY MARC WELLER

THE United Nations General Assembly and Security Council, who decide jointly about UN membership, have determined that the rump Yugoslavia, composed of Serbia and Montenegro, cannot automatically assume the membership of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. This decision reflects general international law and the findings of the arbitration commission attached to the London conference on Yugoslavia, although it appears at first inconsistent with earlier practice.

When the Soviet Union fell apart, Russia was accepted as the successor state. The rump Yugoslavia had hoped for similar treatment. However, there is one crucial difference. The republics of the former Soviet Union had agreed to nominate Moscow as their principle representative in New York. In the case of Yugoslavia, all republics other than Serbia and Montenegro have denied that automatic succession should take place.

The authorities in Belgrade have now been specifically invited to apply for admission to the UN, and Milan Panic, the prime minister, has agreed to do so. Logically, the decision would imply that Yugoslavia cannot participate in any activities of the organisation, except as an observer and by special permission. However, several UN mem-

bers were unwilling to exclude Mr Panic's government altogether, considering that its cooperation is needed to manage the increasingly difficult and dangerous mandate of the UN peacekeepers in Serb-occupied Croatia and in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Other delegations argued that the United Nations had failed to comply with the proper UN Charter procedures for the expulsion of members for the suspension of their privileges. This view was mistaken. Although the former Yugoslavia has disappeared in fact and in law, it actually retains its membership for the moment. Its ghostly presence in the General Assembly will be marked by a name-plate and its flag will continue to fly outside the UN headquarters. The former Yugoslav delegation, which now represents the new Belgrade authorities, will continue to have access to all UN bodies except the General Assembly.

Under the terms of the UN Charter, only "peace-loving" states may be admitted, and admission is subject to a veto in the security council. The Western states have thus acquired another lever to exert pressure on Belgrade.

Marc Weller lectures on the law of the United Nations at the University of Cambridge.

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Fears grow for future of Community single currency as workers take to streets in Rome

Germans join French to save the franc

FRANCE and Germany fought side by side in the currency markets yesterday to save both the French franc from devaluation and the European Community's exchange-rate system from early retirement.

By going jointly into battle the two governments hoped to answer the deepest question posed by the continuing turmoil over the Maastricht treaty: can the timetable for a European single currency survive a combination of German reluctance to abolish the mark, British foot-dragging and Danish doubts?

Many streams have joined the torrent of speculation that swept sterling and the Italian lira out of the European exchange-rate mechanism and yesterday put the franc once more under pressure. But the root cause of the present instability is guessing by dealers about the end of the decade: they believe that Maastricht's iron law, by which qualified economies automatically must join a monetary union between 1997 and 1999, is already suffering metal fatigue.

The financial emergency, popular revolt against the treaty and the lukewarm French "yes" in Sunday's referendum have reordered priorities and rearranged alliances. Officials at the Elysée presidential palace in Paris

TREATY'S FATE

Dealers think the treaty's iron law has metal fatigue, George Brock writes

and at the chancery in Bonn are working all out to re-energise European union while avoiding renegotiation of the treaty.

But, psychologically, Europe's key governments are already rewriting it. Protocols and declarations are being drafted, attempting the difficult task of altering the way the treaty distributes future power in the Community without altering the main text.

Maastricht's fate, however, turns on the wobbling ERM. Weaker currencies are still under pressure and this will be high on the agenda when EC ministers meet here next Monday. Italy has reneged on its promise to rejoin the system. Spain, already forced into a 5 per cent devaluation of the peseta, reimposed capital controls yesterday, reversing the liberalising trend of the 1992 single market programme. Poul Schlüter, the Danish prime minister, said this week that any second

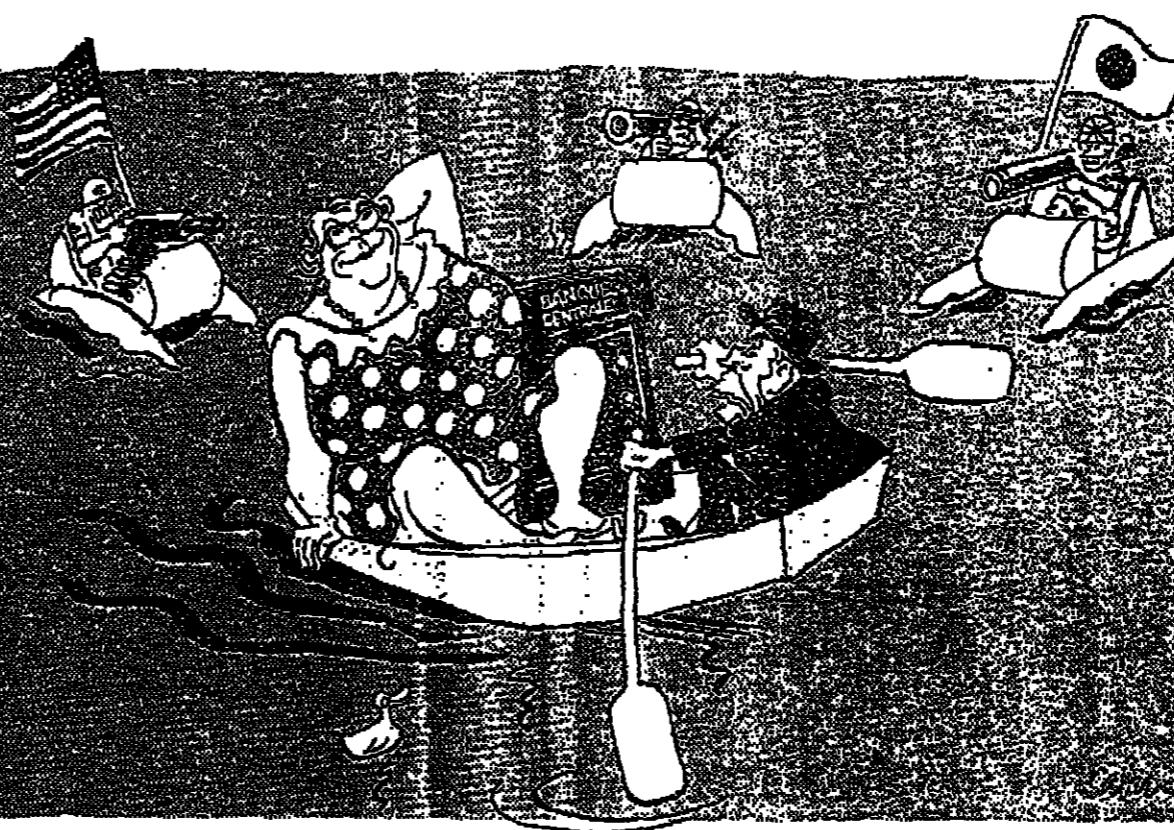
Maastricht referendum might not take place until late next year. If the treaty stays in limbo that long, the ERM will become a shooting range where dealers can take pot-shots at target currencies for another 12 months.

For political as much as economic reasons, the Bundesbank will try hard to defend the franc: to fail would be a frontal attack on the EC's founding partnership. But can the German central bank and the Bonn government find common ground on what should happen if the ERM does manage to survive beyond the special EC summit on October 16?

Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank's heir-apparent, has made quite clear that he resented France's years of "blockading" his earlier attempts to realign the ERM. Paris wanted to make it look like a rehearsal for full monetary union.

France's negotiating triumph at Maastricht was to secure the agreement of Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, to a monetary union of an unknown number of states by the end of the century. Volker Rühe, the German defence minister, talked cautiously this week about submitting later decisions on a single currency to parliamentary vote. He was not only responding to power-

TONTON ET KOHL DANS LE MÊME BATEAU...



... VERS UN TRAFALGAR MONÉTAIRE ?

"Uncle [Mitterrand] and Kohl in the same boat ... towards a monetary Trafalgar?" — *Le Canard Enchaîné*

full public pressures in Germany against the programmed loss of the mark but also confident that France has little choice but to meet Germany's economic terms.

The extent of France's economic dependence on Bonn and Frankfurt will become clear when President Mitterrand and Herr Kohl's full plans are known. The two governments have discussed rapid moves to a six-country single currency. In exchange for agreeing what would be a German currency union, France and Germany would

both bring down interest rates to kick-start economic activity. But the plan would be open to attack in France for complicating the state's economic subordination to its oldest enemy.

Italians protest at budget

FROM REUTER
IN ROME

TENS of thousands of workers angry over government austerity measures took to the streets yesterday in some of the biggest anti-government protests in Italy since the early 1970s. But Giuliano Amato, the prime minister, unswayed

ECONOMY

by the protests, said that he was ready to use a confidence vote to force the programme through parliament unchanged.

The package of cuts in health and social services unveiled last week by Signor Amato in his 1993 budget aims to stem the relentless rise of Italy's huge budget deficit. The prime minister, warning Italy's fractious political parties that torpedoing his government was tantamount to national suicide, said he was prepared to make his 1993 budget a confidence issue to which the cabinet's fate would be tied.

Signor Amato reaffirmed that he was determined to take the lira back "very rapidly" into the European currency grid from which it was effectively suspended last Thursday, but said Italy needed to see how the situation evolved on currency markets.

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Ronseal Interior Solvent Free Clear Satin Varnish. 750ml	£8.99	£7.64	£6.49
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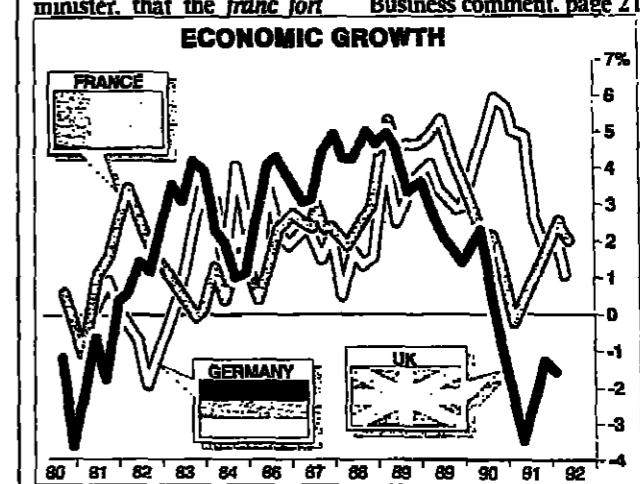


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EUROPE A LA CARTE

The European exchange-rate mechanism has lost its mystique. Foreign exchange dealers have realised that they can pick off a currency within the system just as easily as one outside. Yesterday it was the turn of the French franc. As long as the combined forces of the speculators are stronger than those of the central banks, a currency targeted for attack is like a duck in a shooting gallery.

Despite the best efforts of the Germans, the mechanism may not be much longer for this world. The demise of the ERM should be welcomed — both for its own sake and as the harbinger of a new flexibility in the European Community.

If the ERM falls apart, either all currencies will float freely or, more likely, the Benelux countries with France and Germany will form their own Deutschmark zone. Yesterday, Karl Otto Pöhl, former president of the Bundesbank, called for just such an arrangement. Five out of the original six Common Market countries would thus lock themselves into a form of economic and monetary union, with the other seven more loosely linked around the periphery.

This variable geometry, or Europe of concentric circles, has long been derided by such as Edward Heath, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead and other would-be European statesmen. But all their tired metaphors of trains onto which Britain must jump or faster speeds with which Britain must keep up are misleading. The appropriate metaphor is not of a two-speed Europe in which the slow-coaches lose the race, but of a multi-track Community in which different countries choose the direction that suits them best.

A currency union between the five countries could prove as painful as the ERM is now, unless Germany stops exporting the cost of reunification to its neighbours. Because Chancellor Kohl promised his voters that taxes would not have to rise again to pay for integrating East Germany, government borrowing has had to take the strain.

That has led to inflationary pressures which the Bundesbank is trying to stem by

keeping interest rates high. In any system of fixed exchange rates, Germany's high interest rates have to be adopted by the other countries whose currencies are pegged to the mark. So unless Herr Kohl raises taxes, the French will suffer for many years to come.

Why then should Britain worry if it is left out of such an arrangement? Economically and politically it will feel far healthier than its neighbour across the Channel. Yet the Foreign Office, still smarting from the mistakes it made in the 1950s, is viscerally opposed to any group springing up on the Continent in which Britain does not play a part.

What does it fear? France and Germany will never become one political entity. Aspects of common foreign policy are already becoming clear; they will continue where national interests coincide and fail where they do not. There is no danger of America ignoring Britain in favour of France and Germany. The experiment was tried briefly by Mr Bush and it failed. The Anglo-American ties of security interest, military reliability, language and culture are simply too great.

The Community would do well to learn the lessons of the single market. Initially, Brussels thought that free trade could take place only once all products were "harmonised". That caused uproar in member countries as traditional national habits seemed to be threatened. Eventually the Commission realised that harmonisation was unnecessary as long as each country was prepared to recognise the others' standards. The development of the EC should follow a similar path.

There is no need for every country to agree on every step. That leads to compromises with which no country can be completely happy. Far better to allow each member state to proceed as far as it wants to, whether it be over common defence or a common currency. All twelve will continue to be linked by the single market and the institutions of the Community. All the rest can and should be taken *a la carte*.

FLIGHT TO NOWHERE

The breaking of British Aerospace, announced with defeated fanfare on the eve of today's recall of parliament, is a dismal blow to economic confidence. Even as Norman Lamont is finally trying to stimulate demand to end the long recession, Britain's industrialists are still busy closing down factories.

Three thousand skilled jobs were yesterday's price for the recession that went on too long. During the past years of high exchange rates, high interest rates and low expectations of economic growth, taking risks became foolhardy for all but the very skilful and brave. Maximising immediate cash returns became the final objective of management instead of the necessary means to sustain expanding sales and nourish new developments.

Parsimony came late to British Aerospace. Had earlier managements paid more attention to costs, Britain's biggest engineer and exporter would not have had to provide for losses of more than £1 billion before interest and tax. Nor would it have had to import a retired chief executive from another company to impose a regime focused on "the bottom line". The consequences for the nation's productive potential are dire but now inevitable. Britain will lose the independent capability to make and develop civil airliners. BAE's space and communications business, which led the world in satellite technology, is likely to be sold to continental rivals. Rover, the rump of an independent car industry lost in the last cycle, is likely to follow in a couple of years time. Successive trade secretaries were clearing out publicly owned industries at almost any price.

These acquisitions prepared the way for BAE's fall, although the commercial misjudgments were not rightly Whitehall's to make. The group was woefully under-capitalised. When it finally asked the City for £430 million of cash a year ago, the board was merely responding to an emergency and was discredited. That sum was also plainly inadequate, ensuring that the centrepiece of Britain's advanced engineering industry had to shrink to fit its capital base rather than raise capital to fulfil the commitments needed for long-term survival. Even now, BAE has chosen to shrink its capital further in order to continue paying dividends it cannot afford.

In recent years BAE has been led by three outsiders: two non-executives with large portfolios of directorships, and a retired executive. BAE's story exemplifies the failure of British industry to develop enough senior directors who can rise above simplified management texts to lead nationally important companies. How much better if Whitehall had used its influence as a customer to promote the company, its products and alliances, to build support for it in the financial community and to demand a better standard of managers whose only tool now is the axe.

WHEN POLICEMEN FAIL

The home secretary, Kenneth Clarke, wants better methods for dealing with police officers who do not come up to scratch. As a last resort they should be sacked, he told the Superintendents' Association on Tuesday. The powers of chief police officers in such cases need to be increased, he said, though there was "understandable reluctance" to use such powers as already existed.

Mr Clarke was not talking about cases which would justify formal disciplinary procedures. He was referring only to managerial guidelines for dealing with poor performance. He has thus avoided the real cause for concern, the way disciplinary procedures consistently protect bad policing.

Part of what is wrong is the burden of proof. In employment law except for the police, employees can be disciplined or dismissed by an employer using the standards of proof required in the civil courts, what is called the "balance of probabilities".

For a charge under the police disciplinary code to be upheld, however, the adjudicating senior officer has to be satisfied according to the standard of proof used in the criminal courts, "beyond reasonable doubt". That means no case can ever be proved when the outcome turns upon the word of a member of the public against that of a police officer.

When the substance of a disciplinary charge would be the same as a criminal one, and the Director of Public Prosecutions decides that no criminal charge should be brought, disciplinary proceedings have to be dropped as well. That is what happened after the disbanding of the West Midlands Serious Crimes Squad despite much evi-

dence of police malpractice and a score of acquittals after trial or on appeal. The West Midlands scandal was a serious breakdown of policing, yet because of the way the disciplinary rules are framed there has still been no public reckoning.

Even where a good case exists and a complaint is backed by hard evidence, the "reluctance" to deal with bad policemen, which Mr Clarke too readily "understands", often results in their early retirement on the grounds of sickness. One of the reasons Alison Halford made herself so unpopular as an assistant chief constable of Merseyside was her opposition to the abuse of early retirement as an alternative to proper procedures. Once a police officer leaves the force, he or she can no longer be called to account for any disciplinary offence that may have been committed.

Though missing the main point, Mr Clarke is right to be critical of the police's tolerance of poor performance. Good personnel management requires policies for dealing with incompetence, including counselling, encouraging and possibly retraining the officers concerned. In hard cases severance may be necessary.

Where ill health is a genuine contributory factor, early retirement is a useful extra method for dealing with such misfits. But it should no longer be used as a way to avoid formal disciplinary proceedings. The required standard of proof in such proceedings should be lowered. The police should hold their jobs on the same terms as the rest of the employed population. And they should lose their jobs on the same terms too.

From Squadron Leader F. W. Daley (ret'd)

Sir, Britain's ills are not at all economic. They are rather to be found in the sick and ailing hearts of every man and woman in the country.

Germany was at the back of the grid in 1945. Now England is there and falling backwards each day. "Work" is a four-letter word to the English; they need to undo their ideas and re-fashion their attitude to it.

Nobody here in Germany is much interested in buying British because the words are synonymous with late delivery, shoddy quality and no after-sales backup. Britain needs to become export-oriented and sell, avoiding the pitfalls of poor labour relations and low energy.

Yours etc,
F. W. DALEY,
Frauenstrasse 11,
8000 Munich 5, Germany.

From Sir Ian Morrow

Sir, The present crisis highlights, among many others, two long-standing errors which must be corrected.

It is not possible to have a strong currency and a weak economy. (It is possible to have a strong economy and a weak currency.) Yet ever since Nigel Lawson started to shadow the mark the government (supported by the Treasury) has fought to have a strong pound as a "symbol of national potency".

From now on let the government

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

The referendum question as Parliament is recalled

From Dr Alan Sked

Sir, If the prime minister and his leading colleagues survive the collapse of their major policies after Parliament reassembles tomorrow, the parliamentary system which so many of us have been trying to preserve will have suffered a perhaps mortal blow.

Judged by their previous statements, Messrs Major, Hurd and Lamont ought by now to have surrendered their seals of office.

Secondly, we are without a credible opposition. John Smith, Paddy Ashdown et al emerge as irrelevant. Their fundamental agreement with the government prevents them from exercising this crucial parliamentary role.

Thirdly, if the government and opposition parties are to combine with "Europe" against the people, then a fundamental realignment of British party politics around a federal/anti-federal axis must soon prove unavoidable. The Anti-Federalist League, the only party at the last election to oppose Maastricht, will do everything possible to effect this.

Finally, however, the British press must play its part. Having followed the lead of the major parties in largely ignoring "Europe" as an issue at the last election, it must now start devoting more space to those of us whose doubts have, sadly, proved correct. A democracy in which all major newspapers merely echo a failed all-party political establishment, will not remain a democracy for long.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN SKED (Chairman,
The Anti-Federalist League).
Flat 3, Aberdeen Court,
68 Aberdeen Park, NS.
September 23.

From Lord Pearson of Rannoch

Sir, Most of us who oppose referenda do so because we trust our system of parliamentary democracy to take our national decisions and to protect the sovereignty of the Queen in Parliament. However, that trust can no longer hold when the decision in question would undermine the very system upon which we otherwise rely.

Our parliamentary democracy has already betrayed the sovereignty of the Queen in Parliament. She and Parliament are now "subsidiary", whatever that may mean, to Brussels in many areas of our national life.

It is dishonest to pretend that the recent general election gave our people a say about their future integration into Europe. No serious party opposed it.

These acquisitions prepared the way for BAE's fall, although the commercial misjudgments were not rightly Whitehall's to make. The group was woefully under-capitalised. When it finally asked the City for £430 million of cash a year ago, the board was merely responding to an emergency and was discredited. That sum was also plainly inadequate, ensuring that the centrepiece of Britain's advanced engineering industry had to shrink to fit its capital base rather than raise capital to fulfil the commitments needed for long-term survival. Even now, BAE has chosen to shrink its capital further in order to continue paying dividends it cannot afford.

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From Professor Sir Graham Hills, FRS

Sir, I was disappointed but not surprised that the six eminent Liverpool economists (letter, September 22) were content to consider in their recipe for greater success only second-order factors. The prime cause of Britain's financial difficulties is and has been, seemingly for ever, its inability to match imports with exports.

This has less to do with costs, money and banking arrangements than with producing high quality goods and services that other peoples wish to buy.

The persistent balance-of-payments deficit will therefore remain a cause of major financial problems of one kind or another until we have improved our industrial performance.

As the Germans and Japanese have shown, this is not too difficult. It simply requires that the overwhelming importance of technological proficiency be recognised by government, by universities and by economists so that the best of brains may be attracted to it. All else is trivial, but will will.

Yours truly,
GRAHAM HILLS,
Sunrise of Threepwood,
Laigh Threepwood, Beith, Ayrshire.
September 22.

From Mr M. J. Gilbert

Sir, For the Liverpool Six to say "inflation is undoubtedly a monetary phenomenon" is true but misleading. The economy gives rise to a demand for money to meet trading and other needs. If, for example, VAT increases from 15 per cent to 17.5 per cent, then a demand for money will arise to pay the increase, showing that inflation can also be a phenomenon of taxation.

If it is argued that the authorities need not allow the supply of money to rise accordingly, then businesses at the margin will go bankrupt and the economy will go into recession. Is this not one aspect of what has happened?

Messrs Tim Congdon and others do not say how the money supply would be reduced by the independent central bank if it overshoots its targets. (Still less do they offer a meaning of "price stability".) On this form they mean high interest rates, which is exactly what the government has given us for different reasons and we have low inflation.

Now they recommend a reduction in interest rates "to combat the severity of the recession". What if we get inflation without much recovery — stagflation" as it is used to be called? Do interest rates go straight back up again or do your correspondents have something else in mind? If these questions cannot be satisfactorily answered, there is a major intellectual hole in the monetarist argument.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL GILBERT,
116 Wood Street,
Barnet, Hertfordshire.

From Dr Simon Broadbent

Sir, In my professional life, which includes advising businesses on technical and budgetary matters, I constantly remind clients that they have multiple goals. Balance is key.

The larger and more hierarchical the firm, the greater the tendency to

make by an irresponsible Commission.

Governments and, in particular, the press should present Community affairs in an objective manner not as a competition between players trying to outwit each other, but rather as a joint effort to move forward together.

Yours faithfully,
R. de KERGORLAY
(Member, Select Committee on the European Communities),
House of Lords.
September 22.

From Mr Brian Crozier

Sir, Almost certainly the "knife-edge" "oui" majority in France overstated those in favour. State television gave about four times more exposure to their words than to those advocating a "non" vote. Those against addressed mass rallies of opponents of Maastricht who made it clear that they were not mildly but passionately against. This is no basis for a firm endorsement.

Mr Major sticks to his "no referendum" line but until last Wednesday it was still "no devaluation".

The issue of joining the European common market was put to the people in 1975, and they said "yes", decisively. They should be given the chance, now, to say "no" to that convoluted and often self-contradictory document the Maastricht treaty.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN CROZIER,
303 The Linen Hall
162-168 Regent Street, W1.
September 21.

From Mr Roland de Kergorlay

Sir, There is a belief — widely spread and supported by the media — that the daily lives of Europeans are being increasingly governed by irresponsible Brussels bureaucrats who are supposedly submitted to no parliamentary control. Yet all decisions are in fact taken by the Council of Ministers, composed of cabinet ministers of the different member countries. They are responsible to their national parliaments; it is up to the latter to control the former.

Governments have, however, found it easier to present a decision which could enhance their popularity in their own country as due to their unflattering determination and imagination, insinuating that their partners were at best passive and indifferent. An unpopular decision is always presented as being taken in Brussels, implying that after having fought against it single-handedly his minister had been overwhelmed by his partners who supported a proposal

that means over-caution or over-expansion, and the short term vs the long haul.

The Treasury and government, Great Britain Ltd and the voters, together form an extremely complex organisation. The temptations to oversimplification are great, and our masters have fallen correspondingly heavily. The sole targets of low inflation and static ERM rates are only the latest examples.

That means the participating states ceding some effective political powers to the centre. This includes wealth production, employment and a civilised society. They should never rush all their forces to counter isolated breakthroughs and let in the enemy elsewhere.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON BROADBENT,
133 Finchley Road, NW3.

From Mr Clive M. Hindle

Sir, Now that government has admitted that its policy of raising interest rates to the high point of the recession was wrong and has retrenched, can we have a head count for survivors?

In our anti-insolvency practice we awoke last Wednesday to find that the number of our clients had swelled enormously. Many lending banks caught the infection of panic emanating from Whitehall and promptly put some of their customers into receivership. The problems arise from the fact that they failed to withdraw the receivership on Thursday.

There is some judicial authority for the fact that victims of maladministration by governmental or quasi-governmental departments are not entitled to the same level of damages as are the victims of a breach of duty by a responsible private company or individual.

Are we therefore to assume that it is now received wisdom that the government is an incompetent organisation which carries no responsibility to ordinary citizens for its actions? If not, what about compensation for the summarily dispossessed?

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE M. HINDLE,
Hindle Campbell (Solicitors),
8 Northumberland Square,
North Shields, Tyne and Wear.
September 18.

From Mr R. C. Green

Sir, If French interest rates had gone up 2.5 per cent this time last week, I wonder what then would have been the outcome of the referendum?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD GREEN,
The Whiteman Farms Ltd.,
Lyonshall, Kington, Herefordshire.
September 23.

From Mrs C. M. Parker

Sir, In Life & Times (September 21) you say the Golden Gate bridge in San Francisco is "rusty red and not golden brown". Why should it be? It is the stretch of water that the bridge crosses which is the Golden Gate.

Yours faithfully,<



COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE
September 23: By command of the Queen, Sir Ashley Ponsonby, Bt (Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Oxfordshire) was present at Royal Air Force Brize Norton this morning upon the departure of The King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and bade farewell to His Majesty on behalf of Her Majesty.

By command of the Queen, the Viscount Long, Lord-in-Waiting, was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this afternoon upon the departure of the Governor-General of Papua New Guinea and Lady Korowai and bade farewell to Their Excellencies on behalf of Her Majesty.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
September 23: The Prince Edward, Trustee, today gave a Lunch for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Buckingham Palace.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
September 23: The Prince Edward, Trustee, today gave a Lunch for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Buckingham Palace.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
September 23: The Princess Royal this morning visited Avon and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Avon (Sir John Wills, Bt).

Her Royal Highness, Visitor, Dorothy House Foundation, visited Dorothy House Foundation Macmillan Service, 164 Bloomfield Road, Bath.

The Princess Royal, Patron, SENSE, the National Deaf-Blind and Rubella Association, afterwards visited the Royal National Institute for Deaf people at Poolemead, Bath, and opened the new Recreation Area.

Her Royal Highness this afternoon visited Wiltsire and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Wiltsire (Field Marshal Sir Roland Gibbs).

The Princess Royal, President, Riding for the Disabled Association, visited the Lachman College Group at Lachman Agricultural College, Launceston, and opened the Joint Equestrian Centre.

Her Royal Highness, President, the Rural Housing Trust, afterwards opened the Rural Housing Scheme at Rusthall.

Mrs William Nunneley was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 23: The Princess of Wales today visited Cleveland and was received by Major David Walford (Deputy Lieutenant of Suffolk) (Sir John Bowley, Esq).

In the evening His Royal Highness visited the site of the former King Edward VI Grammar School, St Michael's Close, Northgate Street, Bury St Edmunds.

Afterwards The Duke of Gloucester opened the Unifarian Meeting House, Churchgate Street and later visited St Edmundsbury Cathedral.

In the afternoon His Royal Highness visited the Long Shop Museum, Leiston and afterwards opened the Leiston Swimming Pool, Leiston.

In the evening The Duke of Gloucester attended a Concert in aid of the Music Therapy Charity at St James's Palace, London SW1.

Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Honorary Liverymen, the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers, was present this evening at the Annual Banquet at Guildhall, London EC2.

Mrs Euan McCorquodale was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
September 23: Princess Alexandra this evening attended a Gala Performance of *Sis Stoops to Conquer* at Chichester Festival Theatre to celebrate its 30th Anniversary Year and in aid of the United Kingdom Branch of International Social Services.

Her Royal Highness was received by Major-General Sir Philip Ward (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex).

The Lady Mary Mumford was in attendance.

ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHS: Horace Walpole, 4th Earl of Orford, writer, London, 1717; Georges Claude, engineer, Paris, 1870; Sir Alan (A.P.) Herbert, writer and poet, Elstree, Surrey, 1890; F. Scott Fitzgerald, novelist, St Paul, Minnesota, 1896; Howard Walter Florey, Baron Florey, pathologist, creator of penicillin therapy, Nobel laureate, 1945; Adelaide, 1898; Sir William Dobell, painter, Newcastle, NSW, 1899.

DEATHS: Paracelsus, physician, Salzburg, 1541; Niels Finsen, physician, Copenhagen, 1904; Melanie Klein, psychoanalyst, London, 1960.

MARYLEBONE, London, company director; left estate valued at £2,578,521 net.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):

Mr Ronald Walter Archer, a son, Mrs. Hers, £1,526,350.

Mr Fred Barber, of Gomersal, West Yorks, £829,543.

Kathleen Mary Drayton of Kibworth, Somersett, £500,610.

Mr Harry Grossberg, of Whitefield, Manchester, £1,368,638.

Elsie Victoria Hughes, of Chichester, West Sussex, £531,884.

Mr Patrick Maurice Lane, of Stanton by Staunton, Derbyshire, £578,875.

Mr John Morrice, of Prestatyn, Cheshire, £567,402.

Mr David Hugh Taylor, of Trimpley, Worcs, £579,388.

LATEST WILLS

Mr Bailey Fossett, of Milton Malsor, Northants, the animal trainer and a former director of "Sir Robert Fossett's Circus", left estate valued at £1,696,769 net.

Mr Bruce Herveau Wake, of Ayston Leics, left estate valued at £4,935,426 net.

He left £25,000 to the Motor Neurone Disease Association; £5,000 each to the NSPCC and the Salvation Army; £2,000 to the Parents National Educational Union School, Uppingham; £500 to Ayston Church and the remainder mostly to relatives.

Mrs Christine Jeannine Harriman, of Worsall, North Yorks, left estate valued at £5,166,747 net.

Mr Maurice Albert Wolff, of

Cleveland Hospital, Middlesbrough. Finally the Princess of Wales opened the new premises of the Green Tyre Company at Riverside Park, Middlesbrough.

Captain Edward Musto, RM, was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

September 23: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, Colonel-in-Chief The Royal Highland Fusiliers (Princess Margaret's Own Glasgow and Ayrshire Regiment) today visited the 1st Battalion at Oakham Barracks, Cambridge.

Her Royal Highness was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for the County of Cambridge (Mr James Crowder).

Mrs Charles Vyvyan and Major The Lord Napier and Estrick were in attendance.

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CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF BUILDING

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OBITUARIES

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David Charles Lopes Bathurst, auctioneer and art dealer, and former chairman of Christie's, died from a heart attack on September 19 aged 54. He was born on December 15, 1937.

DAVID Bathurst was one of the brightest young stars at Christie's for more than 20 years and seemed poised to shake off the firm's stodgy image when he took over as chairman in January 1985. Witty, amusing and gifted with a sharp business brain, his effervescent touch suited the optimism of the times. He seemed set for great things but his career at the auction house was blighted by what became known in the art world as "The Cristallina Affair", in which he falsely announced the sale of two French Impressionist pictures at a New York auction.

He became caught up in a tortuous court case in which an art investment group called Cristallina SA sued Christie's and Bathurst for alleged negligence, breach of contract and fraud. The action was later settled out-of-court but the New York Department of Consumer Affairs fined the firm \$80,000.

Bathurst voluntarily surrendered his licence to sell in the city and, after the firm made an out-of-court agreement for the payment of an undisclosed sum to the group, he resigned in 1987.

He went on to set up a dealing group and never displayed any bitterness over the effect of the Cristallina affair, tackling his new career with drive and enthusiasm.

Bathurst, the second son of the second Viscount Bledisloe, was educated at Eton and Magdalen College, Oxford. He did National Service with the 12th Royal Lancers and studied at the Carnegie Institute, part of the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh.

His introduction to the art world came through his time at the New London Gallery, part of Marlborough Fine Art, and he joined Christie's to start its Impressionist



and modern picture department in 1963. He became a director at the age of only 29 in 1966. Early success led him to being posted to New York with young colleagues in 1978, only a year after Christie's had set up in the United States.

French Impressionist pictures then, as now, symbolised money and prestige, and competition for blue chip collections among the auction houses was intense. Business and social life became one. The breakthrough for Bathurst came in 1980.

He spent a weekend with Mr and Mrs Henry Ford II who had an astonishing Impressionist collection.

The weekend was a great social success. There was no suggestion of a sale but when Ford later decided to dispose of ten paintings they went straight to Christie's. News of the sale was a sensation and the pictures were estimated to make \$10 million. But in an electric 30 minutes they reached \$18.30 million. It was a landmark for its time and noted back in London.

Bathurst's team worked hard but also knew how to play. Office parties were frequent. He also had the ability to inspire great loyalty and, in his five years in New York, the saleroom he started virtually from scratch briefly outperformed Christie's in London.

Bathurst's career culminated in his appointment as chairman of Christie Manson & Woods in succession to Jo Floyd in 1984. He embarked on a series of one-to-one conversations with all the directors on future strategy. Bathurst was trying to

develop a management structure for the Eighties.

Changes were beginning to take place when the Cristallina affair, which dated from his days in New York in 1981, became public in 1985. More than £14 million was wiped off the market value of Christie's International after Bathurst admitted issuing false information on the sale of two paintings. Cristallina, a Panamanian registered company, had asked Christie's to sell eight paintings. Only a Degas sold but as Bathurst later admitted to a court, Christie's lied by announcing to the press that another two, a Gauguin and a Van Gogh, had also been sold for £2.5 million. This, he later explained, was to prevent disruption in the art market, though many said it was to protect his own firm's reputation. He resigned as chairman of the English board, as he had by then become.

After his departure from Christie's with two colleagues, Bathurst started the St James's Art Group, a dealing partnership in Jermyn Street.

Friends felt the Cristallina affair overshadowed his career, to the point where it obscured his real achievements at Christie's and that it was for these that he should be remembered rather than for a momentary lapse. Bathurst remained successful and had recently been invited by the Chinese government to hold the first official selling exhibition of Chinese contemporary art in London. This exhibition was due to have been held in November but with his death has now been cancelled.

He enjoyed cricket and while still a schoolboy continued the family tradition of bobsleighing on the Cresta Run. His broad interests included opera and the poems of Dylan Thomas. He loved Scotland especially and spent a great deal of time at his house at Biggar in Lanarkshire. It was there, surrounded by friends, that he had a sudden heart attack while shooting grouse on the hill.

Bathurst married Cornelia McCosh in 1967. They had three daughters.

RALPH VICKERS



Ralph Cecil Vickers, MC, for many years chairman of the stockbrokers Vickers, da Costa, died on September 10 aged 78. He was born in London on November 14, 1913.

RALPH Vickers was a stockbroker of a now past breed, whose business was conducted on the basis of mutual trust. He lived through an era of change and, by his retirement in 1981, to his sadness, the old values of the city were fast gone.

In his business life he made the momentous decision in the early 1960s to investigate the investment potential of Japan. He first went there in 1962, returning twice yearly thereafter. Although there was still considerable prejudice against the Japanese, the war lingering still in many memories, he pursued his aim with resolve, and the many clients he represented, including several Oxbridge colleges, profited considerably by his foresight.

While his interest in the Far East afforded him the chance for extensive and exciting travel, he also relished the human contact of looking after his private clients at home. He loved the contrast of dealing in large sums and then advising an elderly doctor to purchase a colour television set. He was broker to Nuffield College from the outset in 1958, swiftly involved them in Japan and rang the bursar daily. He enjoyed chatting to academics, who on a strict test of the wealth their institutions commanded, could not have merited the time he devoted. He enjoyed bouncing his instinc-

tive ideas off men who liked to believe that everything could be done by calculation. He could calculate too, but never trusted a calculation that did not concern his instincts.

Vickers was born into a stockbroking family, his father having founded Vickers, da Costa in 1917. He was educated at Uppingham and relished his undistinguished years at Trinity College, Cambridge. Thereafter his prime interest was racing at Brooklands. Nevertheless he joined Vickers, da Costa and became a member of the London Stock Exchange in 1938. Just before the war he joined the Supplementary Reserve, and then served in the 1st Regiment RHA and later as a major in the Royal Devon Yeomanry Artillery. He was badly wounded in the leg, but was fit enough to return to war, where he won the Military Cross for an action in Italy in 1943.

Following his father's death in July 1944, Vickers returned to the Stock Exchange. He

was forced to serve under old and ineffectual partners, but by doing the lion's share of the business he was soon in control. He became senior partner in 1961 and chairman in 1972 when Vickers, da Costa became a company. He greatly expanded his father's investment trust, General Funds (founded in 1926), and in 1959 he founded Investing In Success.

The business done in Japan and elsewhere led to considerable expansion with offices all over the world — in London, Tokyo, Hong Kong, New York, Los Angeles, Luxembourg, Monte Carlo and the Bahamas.

He possessed a good sense of humour, which at times became mischievous. A fisherman on his stretch of the River Avon in Wiltshire complained that he had not caught any fish. Vickers paused for a moment and then enraged him by saying: "Well, of course, you are pitting your wits against the fishes..."

His family was diverse. His eldest sister, Joan (now Baroness Vickers), became the distinguished MP for Plymouth, Devonport, holding her always marginal seat against all-comers for 19 years. His first wife, Dulcie McCall, had strong equestrian interests and they held dressage competitions at the moated farm they restored together in Hampshire in the 1960s. His son, Hugo, became a biographer. Then, after the dissolution of his first marriage in 1987, he married Khorshid Farman Farmanian, and found himself part of a large Iranian family whose members were spread across the world.

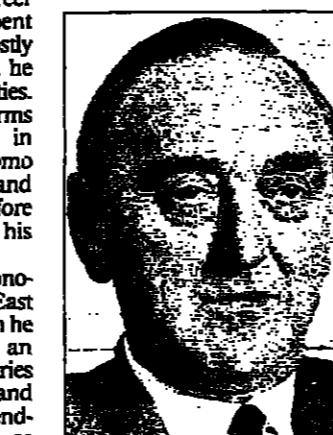
JOHN Gunn Drummond Gordon, CBE, a former director and group chief executive of Grindlays Bank, died on September 16 aged 83. He was born on April 27, 1909.

JOHN Gordon fell in love with Africa as a young man and Africa, by and large, repaid the compliment. "Ewana mirefu sana" (very tall one) was the name by which it knew him, as he moved between Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, towering above most of those he met and addressing them, when appropriate, in fluent Swahili.

He went further south to London, then in 1930 moved to the National Bank of India.

His new employers dispatched him to Nairobi five years later.

On the outbreak of war he signed up for the King's African Rifles and served with them in Ethiopia and in Burma before returning to East Africa on demobilisation in 1946. It was then that he met his wife, Mary, who had



gone out from Britain to teach, and they were married in Jinja, Uganda, in the following year.

There followed three years in India, based in Bombay and Calcutta. But by the mid-1950s, the Gordons were back in Uganda, this time Kampala. From there they were posted to Kenya where he became superintendent of the

bank's East African branches and remained there until he was promoted general manager for Africa and returned to London.

In the early 1960s the National Bank of India had merged with Grindlays Bank to become for a while National and Grindlays — before the "National" was dropped in the interests of simplicity. John Gordon meanwhile became group managing director in 1969, retiring five years later aged 65. He retained his seat on the board, however, until 1979, along with his directorship of the trading group Steel Holdings.

In 1974 he was also invited to join the board of the Crown Agents who were then struggling to repair the damage wrought by five disastrous years of property investment which had lost them more than £180 million. Gordon, whose knowledge and experience of the developing world made him a valuable asset, stayed there for three years.

His reputation in the banking world was that of a sound Scottish businessman, totally reliable, well liked and incorruptible. In his younger days he had been a natural athlete with a good eye for the ball, whatever the game. Watching sport in later years gave him great pleasure.

Although he settled in retirement in southern England he never lost his deep affection for Africa and its people, and, before retiring, took the opportunity to tour the bank's burgeoning interests throughout the continent.

He is survived by his wife and by their two sons and a daughter.

Architecture

Pevsner reaches furthest isles

BY MARCUS BINNEY, ARCHITECTURE CORRESPONDENT

PEVSNER'S famous series of county guides reaches the northern outposts of the British Isles with the publication of *Highlands and Islands*. From the start the Scottish volumes have been of high quality, aided by the calibre of the lists of listed buildings which north of the border contain historical research as well as architectural description.

While the English volumes were largely written by Sir Nikolaus Pevsner himself, in Scotland the job has increasingly fallen to John Gifford, author not only of this volume but of Fife and the forthcoming Dumfries and Galloway for whom the task is becoming a lifetime's work. To him it has fallen to visit every Scottish isle with a building or ruin on it. Castles are here by the dozen. The Earl's Palace at Kirkwall of 1606 would if completed have vied with Elizabethan Burghley. Fort

George, Britain's answer to Vauban's fortresses on the Rhine, is chronicled in masterly detail down to the neo-Georgian Naafi block of 1934. Among rural buildings he progresses through the laird or tackman's house, the manse (the landowners of each parish were legally obliged to house the minister), through farm houses, peasant houses "built of thick sods of earth shaped as brick" and earth shaped as brick and

houses like Aultmore, built for the owner of a Moscow department store in 1912. Of special interest are the planned burghs of the eighteenth and nineteenth century, including fishing villages built for highlanders cleared from land turned to sheep farming. Among the gems of the region are eighteenth century churches which preserve box pews and galleries.

The glossary is fascinating on Scottish terms. A barmin is an enclosing wall; a conductor, a rain water pipe; a rime, a gutter. A dun is a small stone wall fort; flatted means divided into apartments, but the first flat can also be the first floor. A mortsafe is a macabre Scottish defence against grave robbers for example an iron frame over a grave. And did you know gazebo is jocular Latin for "I shall gaze".

Highlands and Islands (Penguin, £30)

Germans pay for headstone

THE German government is to pay for a memorial stone to be erected at the unmarked grave of Elisabeth Hertz which was recently discovered in St Andrews churchyard, Girton, Cambridge. John Shaw writes.

She was the widow of Heinrich Hertz, the German scientist whose identification of electromagnetic waves foreshadowed the development of wireless and radar.

Hertz died in 1894 but his widow fled to Britain in 1937.

She feared persecution from the Nazis and was buried in the churchyard when she died in Cambridge in 1941. There will be a commemorative service at Girton on October 7.

Stanley Briggs, the church warden who is also an electrical engineer, came across her name in old registers and with Kenneth Knell, a retired librarian from the university engineering department, researched her past.

Mr Knell said: "A headstone is finally going to be put up to the wife of a remarkable scientist whose work ranked with that of Einstein."

APPRECIATIONS

Wg Cdr Roger Maw



I HAVE just returned from a spell of teaching in a Moscow school to hear that "Wings Maw" has died and to read your obituary of September 3.

I was one of the vaulters over the famous horse and I also knew "Wings" well, since he was the officer commanding our Block 64.

I helped him once when he made a hide-hole in the wooden wall of the central corridor in our block. My contribution was only to hold the fat lamp and the spare tools and to be ready to disappear with them if stooges warned us of the approach of guards. I was amazed at his speed of working, combined with extreme accuracy, so that when the job was completed, I, who knew it was there, could barely detect it.

He made two lovely gifts for his son and for his daughter. The former's was a model yacht, clinker built, the narrow timbers being meticulously cut from the mahogany of a cigar box received by some fellow "kriegies" with connections in Havana. His daughter's was a grandfather clock. All the gears were cut out of timber, the escapement was regulated by a pendulum and a housebrick served as the weight.

I had an enormous respect for Roger Maw. Your obituary, despite some inaccuracies (i.e. we had no "camp carpenters"; there were POWs in a theatre workshop, with tools supplied on "parole d'honneur", who rightly refused to touch the construction of the wooden horse) will be attached to my copy of *The Wooden Horse*.

Someone else ought to write about his participation in a daylight raid on the Scharnhorst and Gneisenau in dock at Brest, for which he was awarded the DFC. He claimed to have looped the loop over Berlin one night "to show the bastards".

Tom Wilson

In our obituary of Wing Commander Roger Maw the three escapees were led by Captain Michael Condor, not Captain Michael Codner as stated.

Admiral Sir Guy Grantham



WHEN Admiral Sir Guy Grantham (obituary, September 12) was the guest of naval historians at a dinner on board HMS Victory a few years ago, he was asked to reflect on any aspect of his long and distinguished career that had particularly stayed in his mind. Without hesitation he spoke of the Second Battle of Sirte in 1942; but not of his own brilliant contribution to that famous action as a cruiser captain. He spoke of his guilt of having forgotten, when he was one of the few to survive on the Cleopatra's bridge after it had been hit by a shell and 15 killed, that the mast-head lookout above might have survived and be unable to descend. This proved to be the case and Grantham said that he never forgave himself for leaving the seaman in his eyrie for several more hours before relief.

In 1974 he was also invited to join the board of the Crown Agents who were then struggling to repair the damage wrought by five disastrous years of property investment which had lost them more than £180 million. Gordon, whose knowledge and experience of the developing world made him a valuable asset, stayed there for three years.

His reputation in the banking world was that of a sound Scottish businessman, totally reliable, well liked and incorruptible. In his younger days he had been a natural athlete with a good eye for the ball, whatever the game. Watching sport in later years gave him great pleasure.

Although he settled in retirement in southern England he never lost his deep affection for Africa and its people, and, before retiring, took the opportunity to tour the bank's burgeoning interests throughout the continent.

He is survived by his wife and by their two sons and a daughter.

Colette Leslie.

MAY I add a brief word to your excellent obituary of Admiral Sir Guy Grantham?

SEPT 24 ON THIS DAY 1940

The King took a keen interest in the design of the George Cross, drawing the original sketch and amending drafts.

The first recipients were a Bridlington rescue party worker and two Royal Engineers who had removed the bomb which fell near St Paul's Cathedral.

THE KING'S MESSAGE OF CONFIDENCE

The King, who spoke clearly and firmly for 11 minutes, made the broadcast from his underground shelter at Buckingham Palace since an air raid warning was in progress when he began. He

and the men and women in the factories or on the railways who work on regardless of danger, though the sirens have sounded, maintaining the services and maintaining our normal life and keeping the fighting line well supplied with weapons, earn their place among the heroes of this war.

Many and glorious are the deeds of gallantry done during these perilous but famous days. In order that they should be worthy and promptly recognised I have decided to create at once a new mark of honour for men and women in all walks of civilian life — the George Cross, which will rank next to the Victoria Cross and the George Medal for wider distribution.

As we look around us we see on every side that the Mother City of the British Commonwealth is proving herself to be built as a city that is at unity in itself. The walls of London may be battered, but the spirit of the Londoner stands resolute and undismayed.

We live in grim times, and it may be that the future will be grimmer yet. Winter lies before us, cold and dark. But let us be of good cheer. After winter comes spring, and after our present trials will assuredly come victory and a release from these evil things. Let us then put our trust, as I do, in God, and in the unconquerable spirit of the British peoples.

To the men and women who carry on the work of the A.R.P. services I should like to say a special word of gratitude. The devotion of these civilian workers, firemen, salvage men, and

Dinners

Families for

Commuters stranded as torrential rain sweeps across England

Floods kill 29 in violent French storms

By NICHOLAS WATT
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AT LEAST 29 people were killed and 48 missing after violent storms and flash floods swept the Ardèche, Vaucluse and Drôme regions in southeast France. Police said roads and bridges were washed away and crops ravaged. The death toll was the worst from a storm in France in 34 years.

Weather forecasters said the same storm system struck England yesterday, swelling rivers and causing floods. No deaths were reported but highways and rail lines were flooded, and thousands of commuters were stranded. The London Weather Centre said the heaviest rainfall was in a swath of eastern England running from North Yorkshire down to north Surrey.

In Italy, authorities reported that two people were missing when flash floods swept the Savona area on the coast north of the French border.

The violent wind and rains swept through southern France on Tuesday. Police said yesterday that at least 48 more people were missing in Vaucluse, a scenic region and a popular spot for holiday homes and tourists. Of the missing, five are Belgians, two German and one Dutch, officials in Avignon said.

Officials put the number of deaths in northern Vaucluse at 25, including five Belgians. Twenty-one of the victims were killed in Vaison-la-Romaine, a medieval town of 5,000 people about 25 miles north of Avignon. Two were killed in the town of Aubignan and two in Gigondas.

Four people were killed in Ardèche, between Lyons and Avignon, including a young man who tried to save his father from the swollen Ardèche river, the local governor's office said. Two women, 60 and 35, were swept away by floodwaters when they left their car, and a farmer drowned while trying to rescue horses from a flooded field.

The death toll was the highest from a storm in France since October 1958, when 36 people were killed in the neighboring Gard region.

In Vaison-la-Romaine, bodies of victims were wrapped in sheets and laid in a gymnasium. Paul Quiles, the interior minister, paid a visit to the temporary mortuary before touring the stricken region. Witnesses talked of seeing camper vans being carried down the Ouvèze river "like toys" with people inside screaming for help.

About 1,500 rescue work-



Cold comfort: a fireman ferrying people across Station Road in Edgware, central London, yesterday after a month's rain fell in a few hours

ers, including soldiers, searched for the missing in northern Vaucluse after the Ouvèze overflowed. Some bodies discovered yesterday were entangled in branches on the banks of the river, police said.

Violent winds toppled at least a dozen buildings in Vaison-la-Romaine, officials said, and thousands were

further storms yesterday along France's southern coast and in eastern areas of the country. In eastern England, homes were flooded, cars floated away and pensioners had to be ferried to safety in dinghies yesterday after the equivalent of a month's rain fell in the space of a few hours.

As people counted the damage caused by the heavy rainfall, water companies said drought orders and hosepipe bans would remain in force.

North London was one of the worst-hit areas after a stream overflowed in Edgware, flooding several streets with up to four feet of water. Ian Colquhoun-Kemp, whose flat in Barnet, north London, was flooded, said the rain reminded him of tropical monsoons.

"It broke very suddenly and came on for about four hours. My flat is built on porous bricks and I watched in horror as more than an inch of rain soaked up through the floor. My carpets have been wrecked and all my furniture ruined."

Edgware General Hospital, in north London, was flooded with two feet of water, and the casualty department had to

evacuated after electricity was cut off. They said river levels were stabilising but would not return to normal until the end of the week. "It's the kind of storm you see only in 40 or 50 years," said Jean-Claude Andrieu, the mayor of the Vaucluse town of Carpentras.

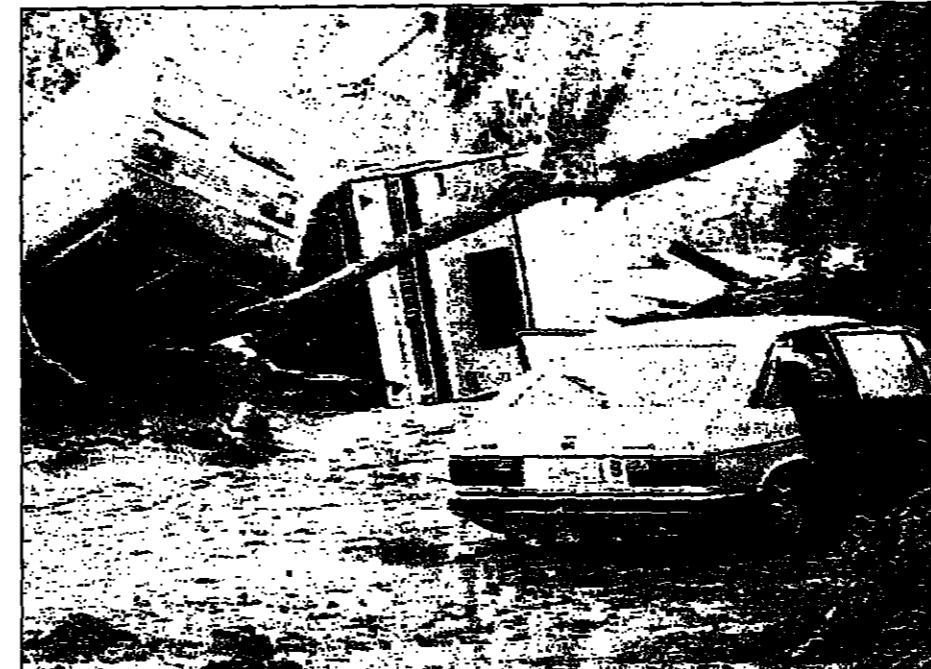
The weather agency, Meteo-France, issued warnings of

closed. Firefighters tried throughout the night to stem the flood which swept through four wards.

At least two inches of floodwater filled the block and Tim Donovan, the operations

manager, said: "It's been an extremely difficult night, but with the help of the fire brigade we've cleared the fire and block of water."

The National Rivers Authority said flooding in north



Holiday disaster: tourist camper vans hit by floods in southeastern France

London began when tributaries of the upper River Brent overran their banks. Also hit were regions of southern and central England, where some towns and villages were virtually cut off.

Illegal parking 'no longer a crime'

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

HATCHET-FACED traffic wardens dispensing the law with their book of parking tickets will soon be no more in London from next year when they will become "parking attendants", whose tickets no longer represent penalties for breach of the criminal law.

Instead of being taken to court, motorists who want to challenge a parking ticket can appeal to special adjudicators in new centres to be set up around London. These will operate outside the court system. The move is part of an overhaul of parking legislation in the capital under the Road Traffic Act 1991, with the Metropolitan police handing over responsibility for the work to local boroughs.

One effect could be a rise in the number of wardens on the streets. The 2,000 traffic wardens now operating in London will remain with the police and patrol the "red" arterial routes and Whitehall security zones. Elsewhere, traffic wardens will be replaced by new attendants working for the boroughs. Alternatively, boroughs will contract out the work. One estimate is that there would be at least 800 of these attendants by July 1994.

The changeover will be managed by the new Parking Committee for London, which today celebrates the appointment of its new director, Nick Lester, and chief adjudicator, Caroline Sheppard. Miss Sheppard, formerly an Inner London justices' clerk and also personal assistant to the fixed penalty clerk for London, said: "It's a whole review of parking, giving more space where possible but where that is not, enforcing parking regulations more effectively."

Details of the new appeals scheme are still being worked out with Department of Transport officials. But Miss Sheppard said that the aim was to keep the procedure simple and streamlined, ideally using computer technology, rather than "having files passed to and from boroughs to adjudicators".

Motorists would not have to attend unless they wanted to. The first step would be an appeal to the borough. If the appeal was rejected, motorists would go to one of the new centres.

If it is successful, the scheme will not stop at parking; trials may similarly be moved out of the courts.

Germany bails out franc to save ERM

Confirmed from page 1
changes in the Maastricht treaty at the London EC summit next month, although he was against going so far as renegotiation. He pledged the lira would "very rapidly" return to ERM in spite of a wave of strikes in Italy against his austerity policy.

All European leaders are clearly aware of the legal difficulty which Britain has to overcome in finding a formula to mollify Danish opposition to Maastricht. Any formal protocol attached to the treaty becomes part of it and would have to be ratified, which could mean new referendums. The British presidency has favoured a political declaration, similar to what Herr Kohl now proposes, which governs the interpretation of Maastricht. The real difficulty is whether this would be enough to satisfy the Danes.

The Bundesbank last night came under the strongest pol-

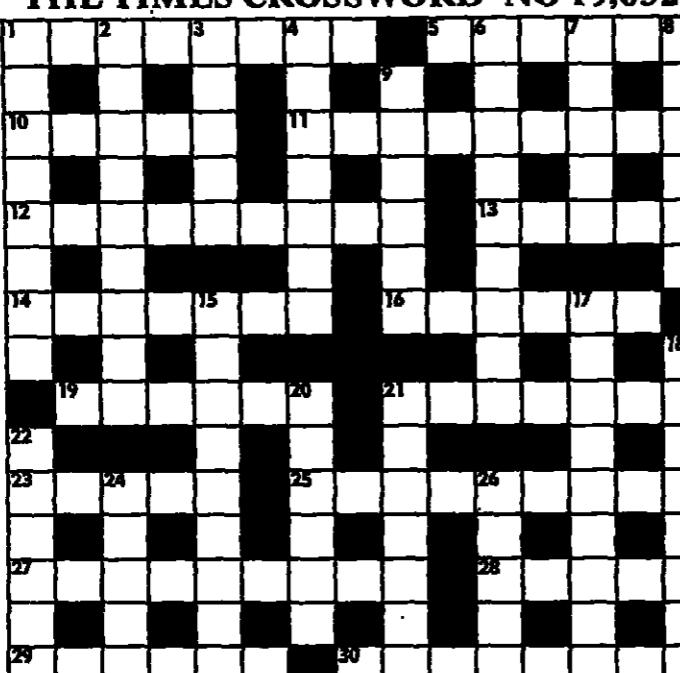


Sapir declared war on currency speculators

itical pressure yet from the Bonn government to cut interest rates as the only remaining way of saving the ERM from total collapse. During their two-hour meeting in Paris on Tuesday, Herr Kohl told President Mitterrand that he would do all he could to convince the independent Bundesbank that its high interest rates were not only endangering the very existence of the EC but dragging the west German economy down. This gloomy view comes from private studies within the chancellery and was backed by a report yesterday from Salomon Brothers International.

Europe in crisis, page 11
Peter Millar, page 12
Leading article and
Letters, page 13
Banks move, page 17
Business Comment, page 19

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,032



ACROSS

- He improves our view of work by an Italian artist, say (8).
- Sergeant-major many soldiers found uncouth (6).
- Vessel put in the dusbin, perhaps (5).
- Carper for showing adult film in a religious building (9).
- Painting bill fills the governors with despair (9).
- Fright about to proceed across river (5).
- Vessel going around Orient with charitable gifts and wine (7).
- Cleopatra's killer caught a general hating (6).
- Prance in triumph like a beamish boy (7).
- An empty space to circumvent (5).
- Poet accepting new involvement as squire (9).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,031

WINECELLAR CLUB
HO-O-A-S-E-L
INVALIDATE IOWA
T E D Y R E E N C
PLUS SLAPSTICK
A L H M Y C N G
SEASONAL GATEAU
T U N C P A
ENFOLD DOGGODER
R A D A U L E D
INNKEEPER OUST
S T R A T G P K
KEAN LEGITIMATE
E I S B J R
DALI HEARTTHROB

Concise Crossword, page 19-
Life & Times section

By Philip Howard
INCONY
a. An extended rabbit warren.
b. Delicate and pretty.
c. Unknown.
MUCKENDER
a. A Scottish referee collector.
b. An African crocodile.
c. A handkerchief.
PIGHTLE
a. A small enclosure.
b. A window-sill.
c. A cossack-stiffener.
THIGGING AND SORNING
a. Excessive sponging.
b. Laying out a maze.
c. Competitive horseshoe-throwing.

Answers on page 14

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and road-work information, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks
C. London (within M2, S Circ), 731
M2/M3/M4/M5/M6, 722
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T, 733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23, 734
M-ways/roads M25 London Orbital only, 735
M25 London Orbital only, 736

National traffic and roundabouts

737 West Country, 738 Wales, 739 Midlands, 740 East Anglia, 741 North East England, 742 North-east England, 743 Scotland, 744 Northern Ireland, 745

A. Roadwatch is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.

* denotes figures are latest available

WEATHER
Most parts can expect a cloudy start with outbreaks of sometimes heavy rain. The southwest will become brighter, but showery, during the morning and this brighter, shower weather should reach much of England and Wales by afternoon. However, eastern England and southern Scotland will stay cloudy until evening. The rest of Scotland and Northern Ireland will be cloudy and wet. Everywhere will feel rather cold. Outlook: more rain.

RECORDS

	Sun hrs	Rain mm	Max F.
Aberdeen	0.83	12	rain
Angers	0.34	14	rain
Antwerp	0.01	16	rain
Birmingham	0.03	61	rain
Bordeaux	0.21	16	rain
Bristol	0.02	17	cloudy
Budapest	1.8	70	bright
Brussels	0.27	15	bright
Copenhagen	0.30	14	rain
Craner	0.46	16	rain
Douglas	0.05	14	cloudy
Dresden	0.23	15	rain
Edinburgh	0.20	13	rain
Eskilstuna	0.44	11	rain
Exeter	0.21	15	rain
Glasgow	0.24	17	bright
Hamburg	0.23	16	rain
Hanover	0.23	16	rain
Jersey	1.05	18	sunny
Kiev	0.01	16	rain
Leeds	0.25	17	cloudy
Lillehampton	0.2	17	cloudy
Liverpool	0.23	16	rain
London	0.49	18	bright
Madrid	0.05	16	rain
Malaga	0.25	17	bright
Manchester	0.49	18	bright
Montreal	0.21	17	rain
Nottingham	0.23	16	rain
Oslo	0.23	15	rain
Oxford	0.25	17	rain
Paris	0.25	17	bright
Perth	0.23	16	rain
Prague	0.25	17	bright
Prilejov	0.25	17	bright
Rome	0.25	17	bright
Salisbury	0.05	16	rain
Sheffield	0.25	17	rain
Stockholm	0.05	16	rain
Toronto	0.25	17	bright
Turku	0.25	17	bright
Vancouver	0.25	17	bright
Vienna	0.11	17	bright
Wales	0.25	17	bright
Winnipeg	0.05	17	rain
Worthing	0.1	17	rain

* denotes figures are latest available
Tuesday's figures are latest available



Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, sun; r, rain; s, sun.



Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, sun; r, rain; s, sun.

Midday temperatures: C, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z.

Midnight temperatures: C, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z.

Midday temperatures: C, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z.

Midnight temperatures: C, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z.

Midday temperatures: C, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z.

Midnight temperatures: C, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z.

Midday temperatures: C, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 24 1992

26-30

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

France and Germany fight to prevent ERM collapse

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

THE German and French central banks have intervened massively in foreign exchange markets to stop the franc from falling through its floor in the exchange-rate mechanism. The joint intervention came as part of a concerted Franco-German effort to prevent a third ERM realignment in less than two weeks, which could have led to the collapse of the whole system.

Throughout yesterday, the French and German governments and central banks resorted to a series of unusual and determined measures to keep the franc above its ERM floor of Fr3.43 against the mark. These included a rise in short-term French interest rates by 2.5 points to 13 per cent, a

rise in French overnight rates to more than 20 per cent, a cut in German overnight rates to almost nil per cent and a joint statement in the morning by the French and German governments reaffirming the commitment to the present ERM parities.

The Bundesbank also surprised the markets by intervening when the franc was still trading comfortably above its floor. The Franco-German efforts to safeguard the franc were only partially successful. The franc rose to under Fr3.40 but closed weaker at Fr3.4130, about 1 centime better than the Tuesday close. Sterling was little affected by the Franco-German battle against the speculators. The pound closed at DM2.5643, up 2 pence.

The speculative flows in European currency markets were also fuelled by a series of

unconfirmed rumours circulating in the markets yesterday. The most pertinent of these was continued speculation that Germany and France would soon decide to link their currencies more closely together, thereby precipitating a two-speed process towards European monetary union independent of the Maastricht treaty.

Expectations of a fast-lane monetary union were fuelled by comments from Karl Otto Pöhl, the former president of the Bundesbank, who called for speedy monetary union of an inner core of ERM countries, involving Germany, France and the Benelux countries. In an interview with *Weltwoche*, a Swiss newspaper, Herr Pöhl said that "those countries which are willing and able to establish a currency union with a common central bank and single currency

should do so, not in 1997 or 1999 but in the near future". This view is also giving rise to expectations that France may soon imitate Belgium by linking the franc to the mark in an even narrower band than the official 2.25 per cent fluctuation margin.

The expectation of closer links between the mark and franc did not stop the speculators against the franc. The efforts to outmanoeuvre the speculators included, most unusually, intra-marginal intervention by the Bundesbank, designed to stabilise a currency well above its absolute floor. The Bank of France also intervened heavily. The intervention has had its effects on France's foreign currency reserves, which have gone down from about \$90 billion in August to about \$50 billion recently. The amounts that the Bundesbank is thought to have

mobilised in support of the franc are thought to be small compared with the DM50 billion in intervention last week, of which DM35 billion are believed to have been used solely to support sterling.

In a separate move to stabilise the ERM, the Bank of Spain introduced penalties on new non-resident peso deposits to deter speculation. It was the first control on investments since Spain lifted capital controls in February, and highlights the seriousness with which Europe's authorities are treating the destabilising speculation affecting in foreign exchange markets.

Kohl to rescue, page 1
Currency crisis, page 11
Peter Millar, page 12
Leading article, page 15

BAe shake-up and job losses to cost £750m

By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

THE survival of British Aerospace, Britain's principal aircraft manufacturer, hinges on the success of a wide-ranging reconstruction plan unveiled yesterday by John Cahill, chairman for the past four months.

The plan involves the closure of the group's plant in Hatfield, Hertfordshire, the loss of 3,000 jobs, and a £750 million provision against the BAe 146 regional aircraft business, which is expected to be hived off in a joint venture with the Taiwanese.

So large are the provisions — reflecting the extent of the cash haemorrhage in the regional aircraft business, which comprises the BAe 146, Jetstream and ATP turbo-prop programmes — that BAe is proposing a financial reconstruction in order that the company can continue to pay dividends to its shareholders.

Details of the rationalisation accompanied interim results showing a £129 million pre-tax loss for the first half of 1992, with the regional aircraft business crashing £286 million into the red. They were met with a stomp in the share price on the stock market, from 19p to 11p. This compares with the 150p at which they were privatised in February 1981, a peak of 74.5p in 1989, and last year's rights issue price of 380p. At this level the entire business is valued at only £425 million.

Analysts described themselves as "appalled" and "distracted" and particularly disappointed at the extent of the regional aircraft losses.

Mr Cahill, former chief executive of BTR, who was appointed chairman of BAe four months ago, said the board was "determined to secure the future profitability of group in the difficult trading conditions that several of our businesses are experiencing". He added: "What we have done is to cap the regional aircraft losses."

The key decision involves the future of the regional aircraft operation, which saw a £27 million cash outflow in the first six months of the year. "For every £1 profit we make on our defence business, 96p is absorbed by this division. We could not let that go on."

Manufacturing will cease at Hatfield within the next 15 months, and all production of the BAe 146 successor aircraft, the RJ series, will be concentrated at the Woodford, Manchester, plant. ATP production will be transferred to Prestwick, Ayrshire, alongside Jetstream. Mr Cahill said: "We have a shortage of 1 million man hours of work at Prestwick."

At the same time, he revealed that BAe had signed a memorandum of understand-

ing with the Taiwan Aerospace Corporation which envisages the establishment of a joint venture between the two companies from January 1, 1993, to design, build and sell the RJ series successor to the BAe 146.

TAC, described by Mr Cahill as "a financially strong partner which will also give us access to the fastest-expanding Asian markets", would take a 50 per cent interest in return for a cash payment expected to amount to about £120 million.

Although the board was confident that the deal would be brought to a successful conclusion — a due diligence team is expected to arrive next week — the £750 million provisions had been calculated to cover the cost of complete closure, in the event of a breakdown in the talks.

Under the financial reconstruction proposals, which will have to be approved by shareholders in general meeting and by the courts, the nominal value of the ordinary shares will be written down from 50p to 10p, and the share premium account reduced by £59 million. This will effectively move reserves down the balance sheet, and permit the board to pay a dividend. Company law forbids dividend payments if there is a deficiency of distributable reserves.

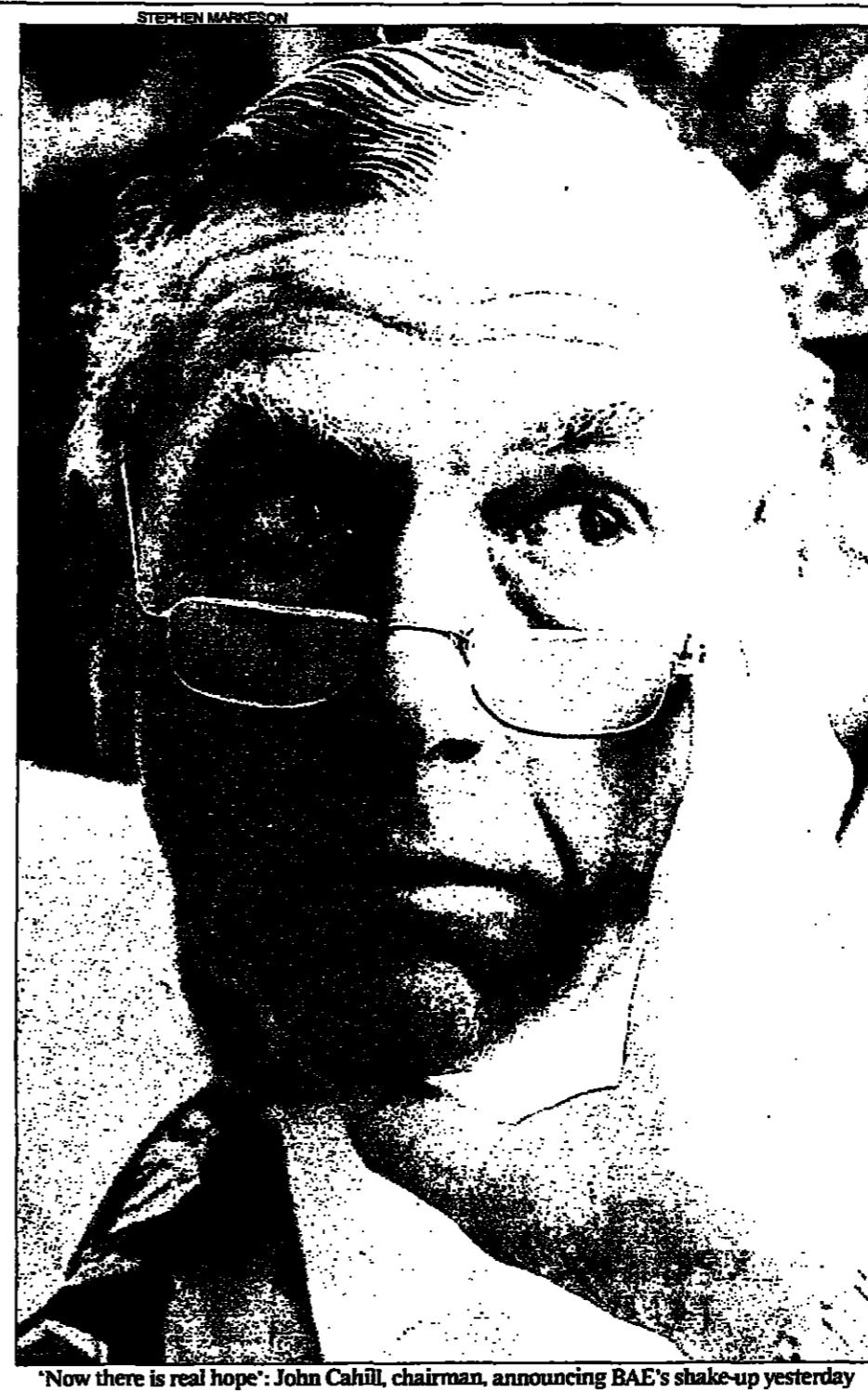
BAe says it will pay an interim of 3p a share, as long as the proposals are implemented. "Shareholders have had a rough time. Now there is real hope," Mr Cahill said.

Those hopes are pinned primarily on the defence business, manufacturer of the Tornado and Harrier jets, which made £296 million profits in the first half, against £281 million previously. The Rover car operations reduced losses from £43 million to £31 million, the Ardington property business lost £6 million (£5 million) and the construction interests saw profits fall to £1.2 million (£20 million).

Mr Cahill forecast, however that leaving aside regional aircraft, the group's other operations, including Airbus, which was responsible for a £157 million cash outflow in the first half, would "in total" be cash generative next year. "Make no mistake, we will introduce disciplines for real cost savings".

Analysts, though horrified at the extent of the regional aircraft losses, were convinced that the company would survive. Given the sharp decline in BAe's fortunes, speculation is bound to increase that Lord Weinstein, chief executive of GEC, will consider bidding for the company.

3,000 jobs go, page 1
History crash lands, page 3
Leading article, page 13
Stock market, page 20
Jets off-loaded, page 21



"Now there is real hope": John Cahill, chairman, announcing BAe's shake-up yesterday

Mortgages lowered by up to 1 per cent

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

SEVERAL mortgage lenders cut their rates by up to 1 per cent for new borrowers yesterday and for existing borrowers later. The moves follow the 1 per cent reduction in bank base rates to 9 per cent on Tuesday. All major lenders are expected to fall into line.

The National & Provincial building society has cut its rate by 0.76 per cent to 9.04 per cent. Royal Bank of Scotland has moved from 10.7 per cent to 9.95 per cent and the Newcastle building society is down from 10.65 per cent to 9.99 per cent. The monthly payments on a £60,000 endowment loan are reduced by £33 as a result.

N & P has also launched three new fixed rate mortgages with interest rates as low as 8.25 per cent for first time buyers guaranteed until January 1995.

Bernard Edwards, director of customer requirement at N & P said: "In today's volatile climate, interest rates can fluctuate at any time and many customers feel the need to create some stability in their finances. Guaranteeing their mortgage payments is an important aspect of this."

The Skipton, the 14th largest society, cut its mortgage rate by 1 per cent to 10.25 per cent. Last month it increased its mortgage rate by 0.5 per cent to 11.25 per cent to staunch the flow of savings to other accounts. The reduction for existing borrowers takes place on October 19. Societies are anxious that their savings rates should remain competitive with National Savings.

Sugar considering a bid to take Amstrad private

By JONATHAN PRYNN

ALAN Sugar's turbulent 12-year relationship with the City may be approaching its climax. It emerged yesterday that he is considering an offer for the 65 per cent of Amstrad he does not already own.

A terse statement from Amstrad was released in the afternoon after rumours began circulating in the stock market. The company's share price rose 3p to 28p, compared with the 30p level at which the offer would be pitched.

An offer should not be difficult to finance, Mr Sugar, the founder, chairman and managing director of the troubled electronics group, sold 43 million Amstrad shares last year at 79p, raising £34 million. Amstrad also has about £100 million of net cash, which could be used to pay off any loans.

City analysts were bemused by the latest twist to the Amstrad saga. They suggested that the announcement could

suggested that he could not resist the opportunity to buy up 65 per cent of the shares for an effective net cost of about £10 million, after taking account of the company's cash reserves.

Amstrad has been shaken by public relations disasters this year, culminating in the resignations of the finance director and the corporate finance director within 48 hours of each other in July.

Both Amstrad's directors, including Mr Sugar, and its advisers were unavailable or declined to comment. Mr Sugar has appointed a group of City advisers, led by Herbert Smith, the law firm. The group does not include a merchant bank.

Next month, Amstrad is due to announce its results for the year to June. It is expected to reveal huge provisions, pushing the company about £75 million into the red.

Comment, page 21



Sir Lawrie serves up a tonic for Britain

By MARTIN WALLER
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THE average four-slab bar is never short of would-be Chancellors, and the behaviour of the genuine article recently can only have swelled their numbers.

Adding to the chorus is Sir Lawrie Barratt, once Britain's top housebuilder and the man who clinched a deal with the previous occupant of Number Ten. He has used the opportunity of full-year figures from Barratt Developments to issue his proposals for reviving the economy. Company chairman can often be tempted to offer brief off-the-cuff views, especially when times are hard: Sir Lawrie's paper, entitled *A Strategy to end the Recession*, runs to three pages.

But unlike the average armchair

pundit, he can point to an extraordinary track record. He returned to the firm last summer, as Barratt warned of £100 million of losses. Yesterday he unveiled a sharper than expected turnaround to pre-tax profits of £11.3 million and a final dividend of 2.0p.

Few will argue with Sir Lawrie's description of the events of last week as "bizarre," or with his conclusion that withdrawal from the ERM — no mealy-mouthed suspension for him — leaves the government a free agent again. Few would object to his prescribed medicine — an immediate cut in interest rates.

He says the Americans, with the benefit of a floating exchange rate, have held unemployment to 8 per cent, two percentage points behind Britain. "We want the US remedy for recession of 6

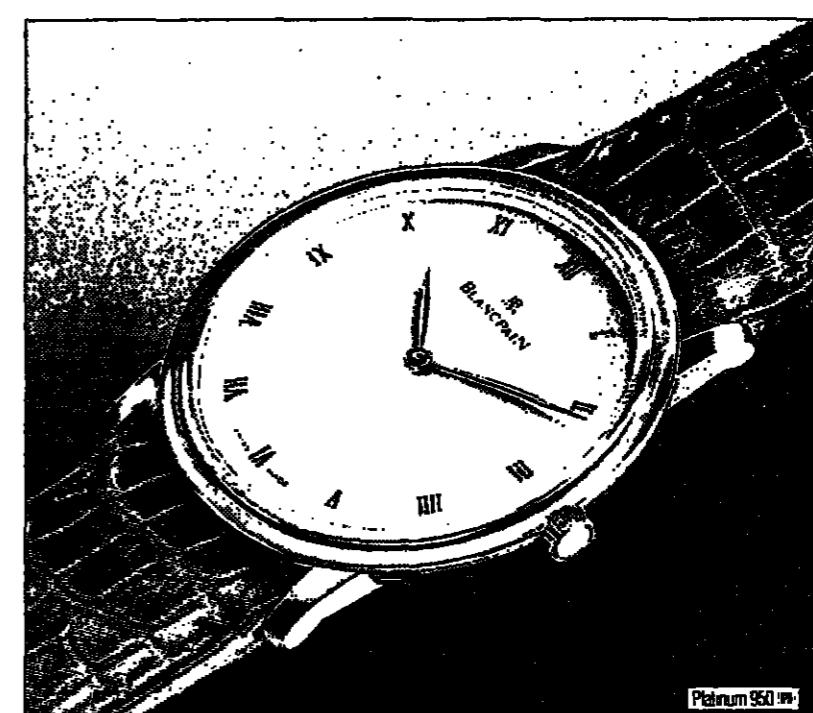
per cent interest rates and fast." He will find few opponents when he calls for a revival of the rented private sector.

Meanwhile, most homeowners would welcome the extinction of stamp duty and a rise in the level of mortgage tax relief on purely selfish grounds despite any apparent inconsistency. Iniquitous stamp duty "is nothing more than a tax on home ownership," he thunders.

"The strategy presents a golden opportunity for the whole country to move forward," he says. The current administration may be tempted to adopt his manifesto, but it should not look for any financial assistance. Barratt has long suspended payments to Tory funds, unable to justify the cost in the recession.

Tempus, page 20

IB BLANCPAIN



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GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$348.90 PM \$348.25
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New York: Comex S 348.35-348.65*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct) ... \$20.45/bbl (\$20.30)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 138.9 August (1987=100)
Denotes midday trading price

* Denotes midday trading price

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London Securities announces plan to avoid receivership

BY MATTHEW BOND

LONDON Securities, the property group, venture capital concern and reluctant owner of a very expensive golf course in Berkshire, yesterday announced plans for a financial restructuring that could enable it to avoid being placed in receivership.

Shares in the company slumped from 14p to 12p, after the group's announcement that the sole hope of corporate survival lay in a voluntary arrangement requiring the approval of both creditors and shareholders. Without it, "the company will have no alternative other than to enter into insolvent liquidation."

David Pearl, the chairman, has partially underwritten an offer to shareholders aimed at raising between £250,000 and £500,000 of new capital, which could result in him owning almost half of the "enlarged" company. A capital reorganisation is also proposed, under which shareholders will receive one new 1p share for every 35 old shares owned. Preference

shares will receive two new ordinary shares for every seven old preference shares.

Under the terms of the voluntary arrangement, existing lenders and creditors would have no claim to the new money raised, giving the company the opportunity to make a fresh start. The voluntary arrangement would last two years although, if the money raised does not exceed the minimum (£90,000 after expenses), the group's working capital facilities would run out at the end of next year.

The company gave warning last year that had breached several banking covenants. Many of its difficulties arose from its failure to refinance Mill Ride, the Ascot golf course it borrowed £10 million to develop.

A standstill agreement with the group's bankers was reached in June, but the company remains vulnerable to action from non-bank creditors. The voluntary agreement would give it protection. The current standstill arrangements, which also involve Mill Ride being ring-fenced from other group creditors, are due to expire in November.

Assuming the voluntary arrangement agreed and the standstill extended, new working capital facilities of up to £35,000 will be extended to the company.

Under the terms of the Insolvency Act 1986, a voluntary arrangement requires the approval of 75 per cent by value of creditors voting either in person or by proxy. If approved, it ties all creditors to the terms of the arrangement. The priority of secured creditors is unaffected.

The aircraft interior equipment subsidiary also suffered from falling demand as a result of the downturn in the commercial aircraft construction market.

The vehicle distribution and leasing division increased trading profit by £1 million to £2.3 million, despite reduced demand through "careful attention to trading terms and overheads". Group turnover fell 3 per cent to £287 million and earnings per share rose 33 per cent to 2.57p.

Asley Whittall, the chairman, said he could not report any improvement in the economies in which the group trades but had "great confidence" in the company's future. The interim dividend has been held at 0.70p.

Cost-cutting action gives boost to BSG

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

FIRST-half taxable profits at BSG International, the car components to nursery furniture group, have climbed 31 per cent from their recessionary low of £6.5 million to £8.6 million thanks to cost-cutting measures and market share gains.

Shares rose 6p to 67.2p on the better than expected results for the six months to end-June. The recovery was driven by a greatly improved trading performance from the automotive components manufacturing division, which saw trading profits rise from £3.8 million to £5.5 million on turnover of £66.1 million. The division specialises in making car mirrors and is due to open a £7.5 million mirror factory in November.

The only setback for the division came at the US mirror manufacturing company, which reported a small loss as a result of high design and investment costs. The level of exports from the Australian mirror company to America increased substantially. The

consumer and special products division had a tougher year, with sales of children's car safety seats and pushchairs affected by the recession. The exception was the German car safety seat manufacturing subsidiary, which reported record profits in the six months.

The aircraft interior equipment subsidiary also suffered from falling demand as a result of the downturn in the commercial aircraft construction market.

The vehicle distribution and leasing division increased trading profit by £1 million to £2.3 million, despite reduced demand through "careful attention to trading terms and overheads". Group turnover fell 3 per cent to £287 million and earnings per share rose 33 per cent to 2.57p.

Asley Whittall, the chairman, said he could not report any improvement in the economies in which the group trades but had "great confidence" in the company's future. The interim dividend has been held at 0.70p.

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Cloth cutting: Jim Maxim, left, and Andrew Higginson, finance director

Laura Ashley climbs to £1.7m

BY JON ASHWORTH

LAURA Ashley, the international fashion group, continued its recovery in the first half by raising pre-tax profits from £528,000 to £1.7 million. But problems in North America have cast a shadow over prospects for the group, which is taking drastic steps to restore its fortunes.

Turnover rose to £116 million (£132 million), but a fall in net interest payable from £1.4 million to £12.000, coupled with lower operating expenses and improved margins, boosted the results.

Jim Maxim, who was appointed chief executive a year ago as part of a management shake-up, said steps to cut costs were paying off. Particular attention has

been paid to improving levels of gross margin rather than chasing unprofitable sales.

Mr Maxim said: "Gross margins have improved in very difficult trading circumstances. We can safely say that the UK retail turnaround is underway." Borrowings have been reduced from £13.4 million to £6.5 million. Senior

management will now focus their efforts on North America. Sales in Japan increased 20 per cent in a difficult trading environment. Worldwide markets remain difficult and volatile and the outlook is "unusually uncertain".

Tempus, page 20

Cityvision pair move to rebuild JMD

BEV Ripley and Terry Norris, who were among those behind Cityvision, the video retail chain bought by America's Blockbuster Entertainment this year, are taking stakes in JMD Group, a loss-making manufacturer of greetings cards. They aim to build a stores chain selling computer and video games. Mr Ripley and Mr Norris will become chairman and managing director respectively of JMD, which is changing its name to Rhino Group.

The group will be enlarged by a capital reorganisation and the pair will each have a 3.6 per cent stake, with options over a further 3.4 per cent each. JMD's pre-tax losses in the half-year to June 30 more than doubled, from £70,000 to £150,000. There is again no dividend.

Smiths buys in US

SMITHS Industries, the specialised industrial products group, is buying Intertech Resources, a private American company, for \$10 million. Intertech supplies anaesthesia and respiratory devices used in surgery and intensive care. An existing Smiths' subsidiary sells similar products in North America. Intertech had an operating profit of \$8 million, before interest of \$1.6 million, on sales of \$43.5 million in the year to the end of June. The company, which employs 450 people, is based in Chicago, with manufacturing operations in Fort Myers, Florida.

Huntleigh pays more

HUNTLIGH Technology, the medical products group, is more than doubling its interim dividend, from 1.75p to 4p, after boosting pre-tax profits from £932,000 to £2.35 million in the first half of this year. Earnings per share jumped from 7.02p to 17.02p. The shares rose from 680p to 718p on the news. Turnover expanded from £9.8 million to £13.02 million. The results included an exceptional profit of £120,000 on the disposal of the recorder division. Net cash at June 30 was £1.2 million. The second half had started well and the full-year results would be "most satisfactory".

Clyde slides into red

AN £8 million write-off on international exploration expenditure, triggered by a change in accounting policy, resulted in heavy first half losses at Clyde Petroleum, the independent oil and gas exploration and production company. There was a pre-tax loss in the six months to end-June of £5.5 million against a profit of £6.8 million. An operating loss of £451,000 compares with a profit of £10.4 million. Net cash inflow was 15 per cent lower at £26.7 million (£31.3 million). Exploration expenditure fell from £32.4 million to £15.4 million. There is no dividend (0.5p).

BRITISH FUNDS

	High	Low	Stock	Price	%	Int	Gross	High	Low	Stock	Price	%	Int	Gross
SHORTS (under 5 years)														
LONGS (over 15 years)														
1991	100%	100%	Trav 10% 2002	100%	+ 5	0.30	0.30	100%	100%	Trav 2002-2003	100%	+ 5	0.11	0.11
1992	100%	100%	Trav 20% 2004	100%	+ 5	0.22	0.22	100%	100%	Trav 2003-2004	100%	+ 5	0.21	0.21
1993	100%	100%	Trav 20% 2005	100%	+ 5	0.22	0.22	100%	100%	Trav 2004-2005	100%	+ 5	0.21	0.21
1994	100%	100%	Trav 20% 2006	100%	+ 5	0.21	0.21	100%	100%	Trav 2005-2006	100%	+ 5	0.21	0.21
1995	100%	100%	Trav 20% 2007	100%	+ 5	0.21	0.21	100%	100%	Trav 2006-2007	100%	+ 5	0.21	0.21
1996	100%	100%	Trav 20% 2008	100%	+ 5	0.21	0.21	100%	100%	Trav 2007-2008	100%	+ 5	0.21	0.21
1997	100%	100%	Trav 20% 2009	100%	+ 5	0.21	0.21	100%	100%	Trav 2008-2009	100%	+ 5	0.21	0.21
1998	100%	100%	Trav 20% 2010	100%	+ 5	0.21	0.21	100%	100%	Trav 2009-2010	100%	+ 5	0.21	0.21
1999	100%	100%	Trav 20% 2011	100%	+ 5	0.21	0.21	100%	100%	Trav 2010-2011	100%	+ 5	0.21	0.21
2000	100%	100%	Trav 20% 2012	100%	+ 5	0.21	0.21	100%	100%	Trav 2011-2012	100%	+ 5	0.21	0.21
2001	100%	100%	Trav 20% 2013	100%	+ 5	0.21	0.21	100%	100%	Trav 2012-2013	100%	+ 5	0.21	0.21
2002	100%	100%	Trav 20% 2014	100%	+ 5	0.21	0.21	100%	100%	Trav 2013-2014	100%	+ 5	0.21	0.21
2003	100%	100%	Trav 20% 2015	100%	+ 5	0.21	0.21	100%	100%	Trav 2014-2015	100%	+ 5	0.21	0.21
2004	100%	100%	Trav 20% 2016	100%	+ 5	0.21	0.21	100%	100%	Trav 2015-2016	100%	+ 5	0.21	0.21
2005	100%	100%	Trav 20% 2017	100%	+ 5	0.21	0.21	100%	100%	Trav 2016-2017	100%	+ 5	0.21	0.21
2006	100%	100%	Trav 20% 2018	100%	+ 5	0.21	0.21	100%	100%	Trav 2017-2018	100%	+ 5	0.21	0.21
2007	100%	100%	Trav 20% 2019	100%	+ 5	0.21	0.21	100%	100%	Trav 2018-2019	100%	+ 5	0.21	0.21
2008	100%	100%	Trav 20% 2020	100%	+ 5	0.21	0.21	100%	100%	Trav 2019-2020	100%	+ 5	0.21	0.21
2009	100%	100%	Trav 20% 2021	100%	+ 5	0.21	0.21	100%	100%	Trav 2020-2021	100%	+ 5	0.21	0.21
2010	100%	100%	Trav 20% 2022	100%	+ 5	0.21	0.21	100%	100%</					

Companies' profits rise as economy grows 0.1%

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

GROSS trading profits of companies rose 10 per cent in the second quarter, an increase of almost 15 per cent on the same period last year, according to latest government estimates of national output.

The data, which confirmed provisional figures published last month, showed that the non-oil economy managed only 0.1 per cent growth in the second quarter. This was the first quarter-on-quarter gain since the second quarter of 1990, but provided only a faint pointer to the end of recession.

Consumer spending rose 0.5 per cent during the period, the first quarter-on-quarter gain for two years. This was consistent with the rise in retail sales earlier this year, which has since faltered.

A tiny glimmer of recovery is not expected to burn brighter this quarter, which City economists fear will show the economy flat, or possibly turning down again slightly.

The most recent industrial trends survey from the Confederation of British Industry indicated that manufacturers have become gloomier after experiencing some improvement in the first half of the year. The one-point cut in base rates on Tuesday could help to improve expectations, but no rapid upturn is expected.

Monetary easing and the sterling devaluation should help the economy to return to trend growth of an annual 2.5 per cent in about two years' time, but City forecasts for this year are still pointing to an annual decline in GDP of about 1 per cent.

The Central Statistical Office said the gross domestic product, seasonally adjusted and at constant 1985 prices, fell 0.1 per cent between the first and second quarters, after a 0.4 per cent fall in the first quarter, reflecting mainte-

nance programmes that cut North Sea oil and gas output. Excluding oil and gas and other energy output, a better guide to the state of the economy, GDP rose 0.1 per cent in the second quarter to stand 0.9 per cent down on the same quarter of 1991. The first quarter saw a decline of 0.2 per cent.

The sharp improvement in company profits, which reflected continued cost reductions and some improvement in consumer demand, puzzled economists, who believe the breakdown of the data to be released next week could reveal special factors.

Simon Briscoe, economist at Midland Montagu, read the combination of higher consumer spending, rising production and further restocking as evidence that the economy was not falling deeper into recession.

Chris Dilow, economist at Nomura Research, noted that the GDP data underlined a core problem facing the British economy: the improvement in domestic demand is being met by increased imports and not feeding through into higher domestic production.

Provisional data from the environment department showed a further drop in orders to the construction industry over the summer. In the three months to July, orders fell a seasonally adjusted 11 per cent to stand 16 per cent below the same period last year. Private housing orders rose 2 per cent in the latest three months, but were 15 per cent down year-on-year.

□ The American economy is improving slowly, with prices, apart from timber, generally stable, according to the Federal Reserve. Retail sales were reported steady, or slightly higher, in most regions, except for lacklustre sales of new cars.

Costain hangs fire on mines

By MATTHEW BOND

COSTAIN, the mining, engineering and construction group, has made no final decision on how to realise value from its profitable Australian coal mining business.

Three months ago, the company announced plans to float the business on the Australian Stock Exchange, while retaining a 49 per cent stake. But yesterday it said approaches had been received from several groups interested in acquiring the whole of the business.

Costain's interim results were postponed for a fortnight, in the hope of a trade sale. Peter Costain, the chief executive, said plans for the subsidiary would be announced next month.

In the six months to June 30, the company made pre-tax profits of £2.5 million, down from £5.7 million in the first half of 1991. The interim dividend was passed (4.75p).

Coal mining in Australia and America was the biggest contributor to operating profits with £14.3 million.

Tempus, page 21

Conder's quotation suspended

Shares in Conder Group, the construction and property group, were suspended at 8p at the company's request, "pending a clarification of its financial position". Last month Conder unveiled an increased pre-tax loss of £22.6 million for 1991.

At the time of its results, Conder said it had been "urgently pursuing a number of ways to strengthen the financial base of the company", including the sale of subsidiaries and securing continued bank support. Yesterday's brief accompanying statement would suggest that the group has failed to secure "continued bank support".

Gent doubles

SR Gent reports more than doubled pre-tax profits of £2.3 million. A final dividend of 1.25p (0.75p) makes an unchanged 2p.

Vardon buys

Vardon is buying Sea Life Centres for £9.9 million. The group is being floated with a full listing on October 19.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

HEADLAM GROUP (Int)
Pre-tax: £465,000
EPS: 1.79p (1.41p)
Div: 0.75p (0.75p)

Last time's interim profit was £213,000. Turnover up from £11.5m to £24.1m after acquisitions.

SECURE TRUST (Int)
Pre-tax: £3.44m (£3.13m)
EPS: 16.1p (14.5p)
Div: 4p (3.5p)

Gross income up 25% to £8.5m. Lower interest rates being partly offset by increase in lending book.

COPYMORE (Int)
Pre-tax: £506,000
EPS: 3p (3.5p)
Div: 1p (1p)

Last time's interim profit was £606,000. Gearing reduced from 95% to under 70%. Recovery unlikely this year.

DAGENHAM MOTORS
Pre-tax: £1.13m (£1m)
EPS: 4.4p (4p)
Div: 1.75p (1.75p)

Interim results. Turnover up from £8.1m to £7.6m, helped by £13m from new dealerships. Outlook is favourable.

DENCORA (Int)
Pre-tax: £20,000
EPS: 0.9p (0.9p)
Div: Nil (nil)

Last year's interim profit was £210,000. Operating profit up from £2.9m to £3.4m but interest charge rose from £2.7m to £3.5m.

SPIRAX-SARCO (Int)
Pre-tax: £10.5m (£9.4m)
EPS: 7.8p (7.4p)
Div: 2.7p (2.7p)

Trading profits rose from £10.8m to £11.3m and net interest charges fell from £1.3m to £789,000. Trading conditions remain difficult.

ISA INTERNATIONAL (Int)
Pre-tax: £1.32m (1.03m)
EPS: 2.7p (1.9p)
Div: 0.482p (0.414p)

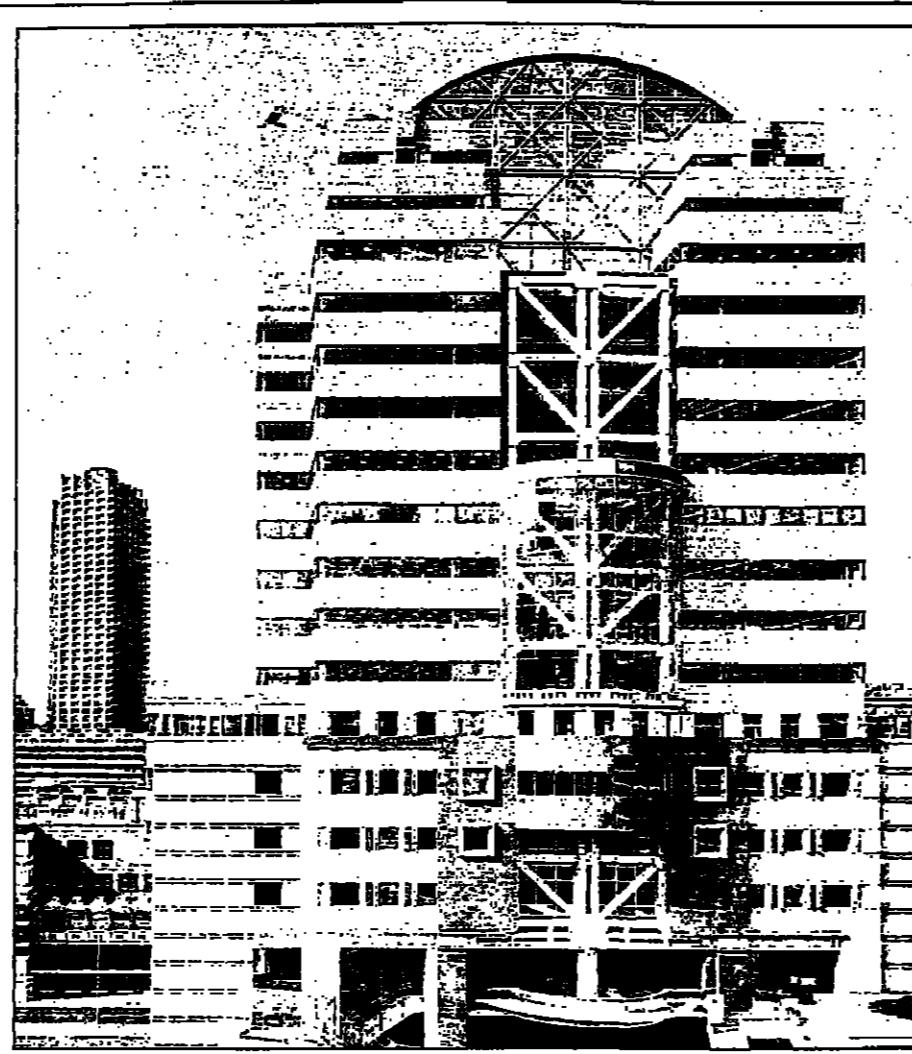
Turnover rose from £35.95m to £52.3m. Company is confident of a full-year result.

BRITANNIA GROUP (Int)
Pre-tax: Loss £155,000
EPS: Loss 0.9p (0.0p)
Div: Nil (1p)

Last time's loss was £3.000. Turnover up from £9.2m to £15.8m, but trading profit fell from £376,000 to £246,000.

PITTARD GARNER (Int)
Pre-tax: £1.27m (£1.04m)
EPS: 3.8p (2.5p)
Div: 0.5p (nil)

Turnover slipped from £20.5m to £17.3m. Company is extremely cautious about prospects.



Favoured choice: Alban Gate, the new City home for Chemical Bank

US bank chooses Alban Gate

By OUR CITY STAFF

CANARY Wharf, the troubled Docklands development now being run by administrators, received another blow yesterday when Chemical Bank, the American investment bank, announced it would not be moving to the project and was taking space in the City of London instead.

Chemical Bank is the second prestige tenant of the development to confirm publicly that it will not be moving to Canary Wharf. American Express, the financial services group, recently said that it was taking legal steps to terminate a lease that would have seen it establish its European headquarters in Docklands.

Chemical Bank's merged operation will move into six floors of Alban Gate, the enormous Terry Farrell-designed office block built across London Wall.

The building is owned by MEPC, which said it was "delighted to have secured a tenant of the stature of Chemical Bank." The letting means that more than half of Alban Gate is now let.

Airtours pays £16m for Pickfords travel agency chain

By JONATHAN PRYNN

NFC, the freight distribution company 45 per cent owned by its workforce and their families, has announced its biggest disposal, the £16 million sale of the Pickfords travel agency chain to Airtours.

James Watson, NFC's chairman, said yesterday he was delighted that he had found a buyer committed to developing and expanding the business. The other half of the Pickfords group, Pickfords Business Travel, was sold to Wagon Lits, the French group, for £10 million last year.

The sale will give Airtours, Britain's third largest tour operator, increased access to 333 Pickfords outlets in UK high streets. In particular, it will strengthen Airtours' presence in the huge south of England markets. The purchase makes Airtours a fully vertically integrated travel group with its own airline and retail chain.

The deal was well received in the City and Airtours shares rose 3p to 216p. The purchase is being financed from Airtours' huge cash resources.

and will be earnings-enhancing in the next financial year.

In the 48 weeks to September 5, Pickfords Travel Services made pre-tax profits of £2.9 million on commissions of £51.5 million, generated from sales of £387 million. The deal will also bring £10 million of cash into Airtours, largely offset by Pickfords' trade creditor liabilities.

David Crossland, Airtours chairman, said the company would build up the Pickfords chain, concentrating on the north of England, where it is under-represented, to a level where it would rival Lunn Poly, the 520-outlet market leader. Pickfords is Britain's third biggest travel agency chain and has a 7.3 per cent share of the market.

Airtours also released an upbeat trading statement. It said that "after a difficult start to the summer 1992 season, bookings and margins over the last 8 weeks have shown a marked improvement".

Sales for the coming winter and next year's summer season are also up on the same time last year.

The fact is that no other printer this small is going to give you a bigger print area or better quality than the Fujitsu DL900 or DL1100.

Both printers handle up to 110 column width. That means either A4 landscape or A5 portrait. Pretty impressive from a machine that's significantly smaller than an A3 sheet of paper.

And compact though they are there's absolutely no sacrifice of print quality. The DL900 delivers 180 razor-sharp characters per second and the DL1100 an even more impressive 240 with a maximum resolution of 360 x 360 dots per inch.

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TEMPUS

Barratt stays to build on his success

SIR Lawrie Barratt is insistent that he will serve out the full three years of his comeback at Barratt Developments, even though the latest set of figures indicate that the recovery programme is running well ahead of schedule.

He was forced to return from well-earned retirement after the company gave a warning of a collapse to losses of £100 million in 1990-91. From a reported loss of £105.9 million before tax, including £84 million of exceptional write-downs, Barratt has now swung around to a year's profit of £11.3 million after another £6.1 million of provisions.

Even healthier was the cut in borrowings, from £205 million to £71 million, representing gearing back from 93 per cent to 32 per cent. The recovery has enabled the payment of a 2.0p final and one dividend, covered 3.9 times.

The return to profitability, to the dividend fist and to a gearing level below 50 per cent was to have taken two years, but has been achieved in 11 months, in time for a forecast recovery, however marginal, in the UK housing market.

The cut in borrowings was achieved mainly by £14 million of commercial property sales, an area the group expects to be out of within two years, by the sale of show homes that had been a drain on resources, and by the disposal of work-in-progress and completed stocks. No further write-downs are expected. The American opera-

tion is heading for break-even after £6.7 million of losses last year, and Barratt is out of the loss-making French business and the structure is substantially slimmed down.

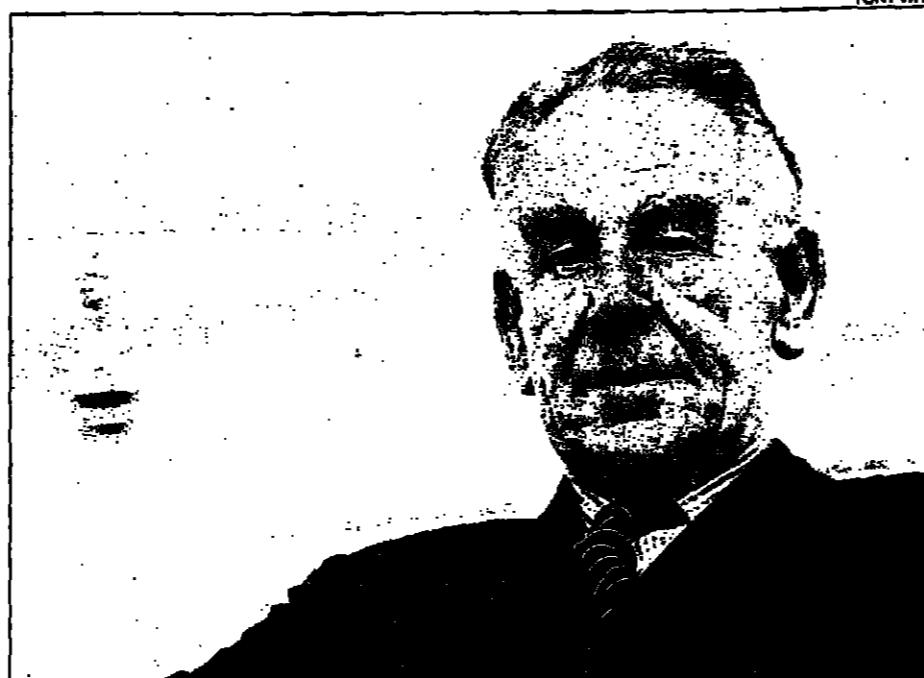
Graham Foster, of Nomura, thinks £25 million before tax is achievable this year, when Barratt will enjoy a tax charge of no more than 25 per cent. The shares jumped 16p to 60p on yesterday's figures, but still change hands on little more than six times' earnings. An excellent recovery play, given progress so far.

Laura Ashley

SOME people think that the only thing worse than being seen in a Laura Ashley dress is to have Laura Ashley wallpaper in your bedroom. Jim Maxmin, chief executive, is not one of them.

Just over a year ago, he inherited a lumbering, outdated company that had little to trade on other than a famous name and a range of swirling floral dresses and decorations. He promised to cut losses, strip out old management techniques and put the company back on the road to recovery.

His five-year plan to restore the fashion group's fortunes seems to be on course. A sharply lower interest charge and reduced expenses saw pre-tax profits advance from £28.000 to £1.7 million in the half-year to July 25. Turnover eased from £132 million to £116 million, but improved margins helped to compensate. Earnings per share were



Point of light: Sir Lawrie Barratt, who is well ahead with his recovery plan

0.4p (0.12p). Again, there is no interim dividend.

Several hundred jobs have gone and shops are planned in Europe and the Far East. The biggest question is whether the North American division, which expanded recklessly in the Eighties, can be turned around.

Attention will focus on that region in the second half, and hopes are high that profits will return in 1993. Some scepticism remains, and Barclays de Zoete Wedd has downgraded its full-year group profit forecast from £6 million to £5 million as a

precaution. And the brand? It may not be everyone's cup of tea, but customer loyalty should not be underestimated. The City likes what Mr Maxmin is doing, but will want to see how North America shapes up.

The shares, down 2p at 60p, look ludicrously overpriced on a prospective p/e of about 38 and are unlikely to see much upside for now.

Costain

THE late return of a director from Australia delayed publication of Costain's interim

debt further from its June level of £240 million and gearing from about 85 per cent of rather historic shareholders' funds. Property sales in Australia and other disposals will get borrowings heading the right way, but it is the coal mining sale that could transform the balance sheet. So to deliver neither a deal nor any clue as to the eventual proceeds could hardly encourage sentiment.

There is certainly much to worry about. The likelihood of further write-downs against the residential land bank and more provisions against the postponed Spitalfields development mean that the £2.5 million pre-tax profit of the first half is virtually certain to become a significant loss by the year-end.

Then there is the question of what a completed sale of the Australian operation leaves behind. The £4.5 million operating profit earned by engineering and construction may not be directly comparable with last year's £14.8 million, but it is far from encouraging for what is presumably a core business, alongside a to-date rather unexciting American coal operation.

With commercial property in the past, that leaves the modestly loss-making 400-unit a year housebuilding operation to provide the gloss.

At 27p, the lack of dividend support and uncertainty over the source of future profits is fully discounted. But until some questions are answered the shares are best avoided.

Realising a big lump of value from the Australian coal business is fundamental to the group's plan to cut net

New York blue chips slip in early trading

New York — Shares eased in morning trading after a small opening rise as traders reassessed the prospects for profits and the frenzied currency dealings and found little reason to buy. The Dow Jones industrial average slipped 3.85 points to 3,277.

□ Melbourne — Demand for put options, combined with anxiety about the Maastricht treaty and global markets, caused prices to close sharply lower. The all-ordinates index lost 15.8 points at 1,505.

□ Hong Kong — Prices slid on word that a Communist Party congress might delay Governor Chris Patten's visit to Peking, but late haggling won back some ground. Mr Patten confirmed the postponement of the visit after the market closed. The blue-chip Hang Seng index closed at 5,712.64, a loss of 27.54 points, on a thin turn-

over of HK\$1.65 billion (£125 million).

□ Frankfurt — Shares ended slightly higher, with a myriad of rumours linked to the turmoil in foreign exchange markets dominating trading. The Dax index ended 7.49 points higher at 1,557.83 — but below a high for the day of 1,563.55 — in the face of the growing fears about the future of the European monetary system.

□ Singapore — Prices closed mostly unchanged in quiet trading, with the bulk of activity focused on companies linked to Malaysia's Magnum Corp. The Straits Times industrial index firms by 0.25 of a point to 1,330.06 on a volume of 28.56 million shares, against 29.09 million shares on Tuesday.

□ Tokyo — The stock market was closed for a national holiday.

(Reuter)

STOCK MARKET

British Aerospace shares slump after losses

INVESTORS were left with a sour taste in their mouths by the events at British Aerospace and have begun questioning the future of the entire aerospace industry in this country. The first-half losses of £129 million and the 3,000 job losses at Hatfield, Hertfordshire, sent the BAE share price tumbling 6p to 113p as almost 30 million shares changed hands.

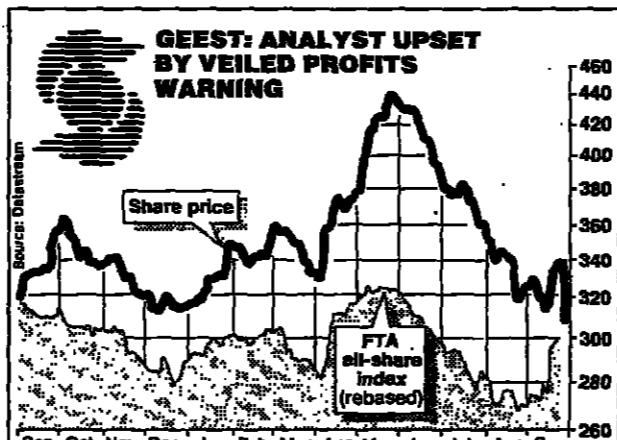
John Cahill, the chairman, who is attempting to restructure BAE, blamed the regional aircraft division for the losses. But the extent of the deficit shocked even the most pessimistic broker. The reverberations from the announcement were also being felt by other companies in the aerospace industry as investors started to take a gloomy view of prospects. Losses were seen in Lucas Industries, 11p to 90p; T&N, 52p to 152p; Rolls-Royce, 6p to 136p and Smiths Industries, 6p to 308p.

The rest of the equity market

saw some of its recent euphoria evaporate, with the news from BAE providing more evidence of just how deeply the recession had bitten. Prices failed to establish any real trend and spent another volatile session. The FT-SE 100 index saw an early lead of almost 18 points reversed by the late afternoon before closing 5.5 points lower at 2,580.

Turnover was another impressive 735 million shares, but there was a continued lack of retail demand. Much of the business is still being conducted between the various securities houses, which are attempting to unravel short positions built up during the summer before the pound's devaluation and cut in interest rates.

Trafalgar House, the construction group, which also includes the Cunard shipping line and the Ritz Hotel, eased 1p to 50p on the news that it has sacked BZW and appoint-



ed UBS Phillips & Drew to act with Cazenove as joint brokers to the company. Trafalgar's chief executive, Sir Eric Parker, blamed a conflict of interests for the move.

BZW also acts for Midland & Scottish Resources, which has been in dispute with Trafalgar about the Emerald North Sea oil platform since

Trafalgar's acquisition of Davy Corporation in 1991. Scottish & Newcastle, the drinks and leisure group, jumped 10p to 422p on hopes of some good news on the trading front soon. The group is taking a party of analysts to visit its Center Parcs operation in France. It is hoped that the group will have some encour-

aging news about trading prospects. S&N recently indicated that the Center Parcs side was feeling the effects of the fall in consumer spending.

Geest, the importer of bananas, tumbled 36p to 302p after issuing a veiled profits warning with its half-year figures. Exceptionally weak produce prices during the third quarter were now affecting the group. Pre-tax profits were up 2 per cent to £15.4 million.

Williams Holdings fell 14p to 276p amid mounting speculation that the group was about to ask shareholders for funds to help finance its next acquisition. Whispers in the market claim that Williams is interested in buying Thorn EM's industrial division, including its lighting operation. Brokers say the asking price is likely to be about £400 million.

Anstrad, the consumer electronics group, finished 3p firmer at 28p, unimpressed with Alan Sugar's plans to

take the company private again. Mr Sugar, who owns 35 per cent of the group, is contemplating offering 30p a share, giving Anstrad a price-tag of around £170 million. Four years ago it was valued at more than £1 billion. But figures due next month are expected to reveal large losses and a question mark hangs over the dividend.

Costain, the construction group, eased 2p to 27p after seeing interim pre-tax profits drop from £5.7 million to £2.5 million. The group warned there was no sign of a pick-up in the second half.

But it was better news from Barratt Developments, the housebuilder, with the group returning to the black with pre-tax profits of £11.3 million against a loss for the corresponding period of £106 million. The group also returned to the dividend list with a 2p payment.

MICHAEL CLARK

GM opens German plant to rival Japan

FROM REUTER IN EISENACH, GERMANY

ADAM Opel AG, a subsidiary of General Motors (GM), the American automotive company, has opened a car plant in Europe to meet the challenge of Japanese competition.

The plant, at Eisenach, south east of Kassel, employs Japanese-style production methods and will produce 150,000 cars a year from 1993, the same rate as rival Japanese plants.

Louis Hughes, GM Europe president, said trade barriers in the European Community were the wrong answer to Japanese competition. "Instead, we want to train hard and work hard to remain competitive," he said.

The DM1 billion plant is one of the biggest investments in former East Germany, where unemployment is 40 per cent following the collapse of old communist industries. Opel was the first western car

maker to clinch a production deal in eastern Germany. It signed a co-operation agreement with the old Wartburg car plant in the last week of communist rule in March 1990. The plant in Eisenach closed last year with the loss of 10,000 jobs. The new Opel factory there aims to break even by 1995. Its 2,000 workers are organised into production teams with responsibility for quality, plant maintenance and materials management.

The plant, producing Astra and compact Corsa models, makes a car in about 20 hours, quicker than Japanese plants in Europe and America but still slightly slower than factories in Japan. GM forecast that Japanese producers will raise their European car sales by 50 per cent to 2.4 million a year from 1999, compared with 1991 levels.

THE TIMES

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For further details contact the Information Office at the address below.

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SA Breweries	778p (-12p)	...	
Euro Disney	943p (-96p)	...	
British Aerospace	113p (-86p)	...	
FR Group	184p (-12p)	...	
Closing Prices Page 23			

RECENT ISSUES

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COMMENT

Sweet nothings from Mr Sugar

Andrew Lloyd-Webber, Richard Branson, Asil Nadir and now Alan Sugar. All these misunderstood would-be buyers of shares previously sold to the public thought their companies were wonderful but not appreciated by City investors. Some proved more wonderful than others. They had something else in common. All depended on one man, who did things his way, played his cards close to his chest and did not wish to explain every nuance to his fellow shareholders, let alone unimaginative analysts. Investors should have had faith and if they did not, that was their problem.

How serious Mr Sugar is about making a bid for the two thirds of Amstrad he does not own cannot be judged unless and until he finds the finance he has been seeking, perhaps setting off recent City wine-bar speculation, and makes a formal bid. The City lost faith after he sold a slice of his stake in March last year at 75p. Amstrad shares finished 1991 at about a third of that level. The company now expected to report a loss of about £75 million in a fortnight's time.

According to the company, Mr Sugar is considering a bid of 30p per share, near the average market price this year, which has been as heavily depressed by loss of faith in the enthusiastic savour of Tottenham Hotspur as by the trading difficulties brought by recession and the cut-throat competition in personal computers. That led Amstrad to write off large quantities of stock, leaving it with cash equivalent to most of its stock market value but an otherwise uncertain future. One message may be that Mr Sugar aims to make as astute a deal now as he did last year. Outside shareholders are likely to ignore such a message or a bid at such a level. Many in the City reckon Amstrad should go private since Mr Sugar's trading abilities cannot be valued by conventional tests and it is unclear what he is trying to achieve for shareholders. As director of a public company, his duty is to earn shareholders a higher share price, not to make easy gestures.

On your marks

Schemes for a mini-currency union among some continental countries are becoming as common as gurus. Some ingenious lateral thinking must be going on if Karl Otto Pöhl, the long-standing former Bundesbank president, envisages his former domain being quickly abolished in favour of a joint — though surely not European central bank. There are plenty of precedents for fixing currencies, if political face is not paramount. Hong Kong tied its currency to the American dollar, its biggest trading currency, and has stuck to this at the cost of many, sometimes uncomfortable, internal adjustments to big brother — most recently living with unwanted high inflation. Belgium and Luxembourg have a single currency, effectively run by the Belgians, in a union of the kind unbound by the Irish Republic when it joined the ERM ahead of Britain, and more recently by most of the countries emerging from the former Soviet Union.

Of more immediate interest are the Belgian and Austrian models. The schilling is firmly fixed to the mark, rather as if it had reached stage three of EMU, with its nominally independent central bank essentially taking orders from the head office in Frankfurt.

Belgium has officially and unilaterally kept to a fluctuation margin of about 0.5 per cent against the mark, a strategy theoretically vulnerable to speculation but which has so far survived most of the ERM's current test to destruction. Surely neither model would be politically acceptable to France. Perhaps the first step in Herr Pöhl's plan would be for the Bundesbank to invite its neighbours to be represented on its ruling council.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

UBS drops Random action

UBS Phillips & Drew has dropped its legal action against Random Century, the publisher of Terry Smith's book, *Accounting for Growth*, but not against Smith himself. According to sources within the company, UBS feels it has no quarrel with the publisher since it co-operated fully with UBS's request that its name be removed from the cover. As far as Smith is concerned, however, UBS is adamant that it does still have a case in terms of breach of contract, breach of copyright, and passing off. Smith, while stopping short of accusing his former employer of harbouring a personal vendetta against him, nevertheless says: "It's very odd. I would say that in terms of breach of copyright and passing off, they have the same course of action open to them, against both me and the publisher." The on-going battle between Smith and UBS should give him plenty of talk about at a one-day conference, on October 29, chaired by Gillian O'Connor, *Investor's Chronicle* editor, and organised by Westminster Management Consultants. Delegates are being asked to pay a fee of up to £311 — "I'm not being paid anything," says Smith, now technically unemployed — and the conference is entitled "Accounting for Growth: Beyond the Book."

Into leathers

ALTHOUGH this week's one percentage point base rate cut has improved corporate senti-



...the search for survivors continues"

Owen's challenge

THE high-profile adventures of Robert Owen, a Japanese equity salesman, have clearly done his job prospects no harm. Owen, 27, returned from a Scouting-style trip across the Arctic island of Svalbard in January last year with frost-bitten toes. Now, after resigning from Wako Securities, a Japanese firm, last week so that he can accept a job offer from Schroders, he has hatched up a plan to use the interim leisure time by climbing Mount Aconcagua in Argentina, at 24,000 ft the highest mountain outside Asia. Owen's 22-day expedition, due to start in ten days and paid for by his own savings, has the full blessing of his new employer. So much so that Michael Law, his new boss, has agreed that Schroders will match-fund money raised by Owen for Care, the charity at present attempting to feed 1.5 million people in Somalia. Owen's intended method of raising funds is for companies to supply him with their products or logos, so that they can be photographed atop the mountain, in return for a generous donation. "I am being accompanied by a professional agency photographer," Jeremy Beasley, and my only hope is that the things people want us to photograph are reasonably cariable," says Owen, who is due to start at Schroders on November 2.

CAROL LEONARD

Business rate and hardship relief

From Mr Alan Skelton

Sir, I wonder how many of your readers who own small businesses are aware that in cases of hardship it may be possible to gain relief from the burden of uniform business rates?

As a director of a small business about to become a casualty of the recession, we have been advised by our auditors that under "Section 49, Local Government and Finance Act 1988 — Hardship" we are able to claim relief from UBR if we can show our losses lead to hardship. Although we requested relief from our local council, Lambeth, in January, April and June, they did not bring to our attention the relief available. After discussion with a Lambeth council officer, it appears they do not

make public their ability to grant relief so that they do not have to give local authority money away. However, 75 per cent of this relief is provided by central government and so it seems a small price to pay for the saving in jobs and in the misery caused.

Although it is probably too late for this company to benefit, I suggest that all small businesses suffering hardship make applications to their local authorities for assistance.

Hopefully, this letter may help at least some companies survive this dreadful recession and live to fight another day. Yours faithfully,

ALAN SKELTON
(Managing Director),
Soapy Joes,
8 Eastman Road,
West Dulwich, SE21.

Despite being a staunch

Spreading the misery is no answer at Lloyd's

From Mr Nicolas Mellersh

Sir, Your headline "Lloyd's near to creating aid scheme for names" (Business Times, September 15) was really rather misleading. As the opening sentence of Jonathan Prynn's story made clear, all that is happening is that a structure may be created to look at ways of providing relief for hard-hit names — a very different thing.

As a name with losses approaching six figures, I didn't know whether to laugh or cry at this prospect.

Are my losses so (relatively) small that I shall be called upon to bail out those who have lost more than me, or do I qualify for a handout myself? If the latter, who is going to provide it?

The problem with all these marvellous schemes is finding someone who is going to provide the money, and whichever way you look, the

answer always turns out to be other names. Equal misery for all has never been a vote-winning slogan.

The proposal as described also holds out the worrying prospect of Lloyd's itself giving some form of credibility to the self-appointed leaders of these so-called action groups.

I have every confidence that the forthcoming series of legal actions by Lloyd's own version of the militant tendency will be resoundingly defeated, after which perhaps the market can be allowed to get on with its job of profitable underwriting. Yours faithfully,

NICOLAS MELLERSH,
47 Quarrendon Street,
London,
SW6.

Letters to The Times
Business and Finance
section can be
sent by fax
on 071-782 5112.

Britain plc the markets await you

From Mr Michael J. Barrett

Sir, Thank goodness Lamont and Major were forced to come to their senses and were made to realise that a "growing" British industry is vastly more important and feasible than zero inflation.

Imported goods will now become more expensive and lead to the regeneration of British manufacturing, not massive inflation as the government feared.

Lower interest rates will increase both consumer and business confidence, and this matters to most people much more than low inflation. If a communication analyst found the government's economic policy totally incomprehensible, what chance the man on Finchley high street?

Despite being a staunch

Conservative, and Europe-lover, my heart lifted 100 points at Britain's ERM suspension and the floating pound. Now, come on Britain plc, invest, train, innovate, manufacture, export, and expand. Your markets await you.

MICHAEL J. BARRETT,
Total Quality
Communication,
51 Durham Road, N2.

Beam and gloom

From Mrs Pauline Graham
Sir, Could we please have suitable sombre photographs of chief executive officers who announce lower profits? The juxtaposition of beaming chief executives and slumped profits is incongruous — and most irritating to shareholders.
Yours faithfully,
P. GRAHAM,
6 Beacon Hill, N7.

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George Sivell and
Michael Tate trace how
British Aerospace came
to set aside £750 million
for the restructuring
of its business

John Cahill, the chairman of British Aerospace, arrived at his desk for the first time on May 1 of this year knowing the regional jets business faced problems. "But I did not know when I came in it was as big as this" he said yesterday, after disclosing a provision of £750 million to staunch the losses from regional aircraft business and stop the division eating up the group's valuable defence profits.

Mr Cahill said that British Aerospace was aware of a problem with regional aircraft "but I do not think they knew how big it was because it was jumbled up with Airbus".

For every pound that defence made, Mr Cahill said that regional aircraft were mopping up no less than 90p. "We clearly could not allow this to go on. Defence is the core of British Aerospace," he said.

When first approached about the British Aerospace job, Mr Cahill spent five hours boning up on the company over cuttings from an American press agency in preparation for a working breakfast with Dick Evans, the British Aerospace chief executive. He spoke to two of the City's legion of analysts who follow BAe and bought shares at 357p.

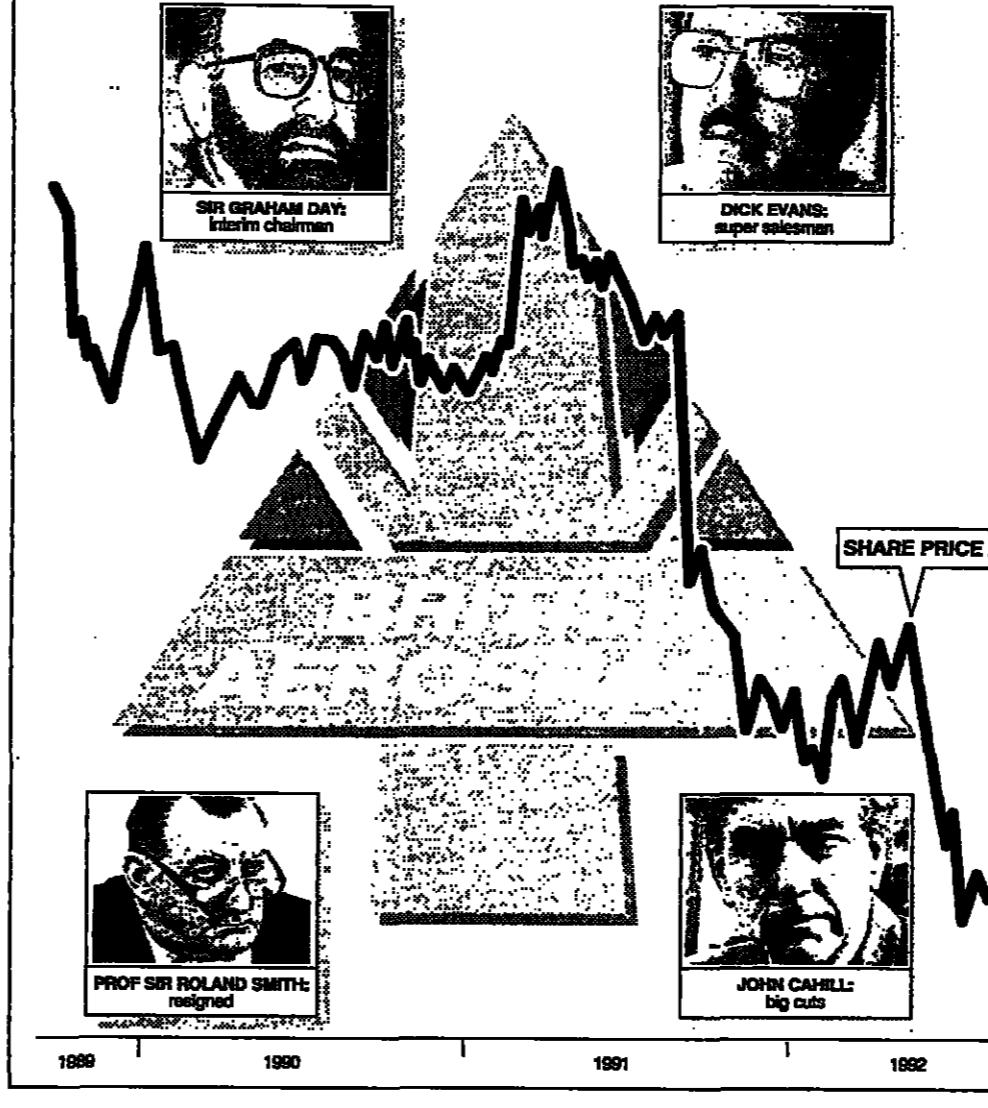
On yesterday's 86p plunge to 113p, Mr Cahill said he was going to buy more to average out his purchase cost. Indeed, he spoke of a "positive fall out". Stripped of regional aircraft the rest of BAe should generate cash next year.

But the chairman and Richard Lapthorne, the new finance director, feel they have merely speeded up British Aerospace along a flight path which had already been selected. Mr Cahill cited "the first law of inertia: nothing happens until someone does something". But because the £750 million restructuring cost will wipe out the company's reserves he is anxious to speed up the cuts to restore the balance sheet. He said: "We are trying to find a flypaper for the money going through the company to make it stick."

Mr Cahill took over the reins after one of the most turbulent periods in BAe's history. A year ago, Sir Roland Smith, the former chairman, paid the price of delivering a nasty surprise to the City and was forced to resign. The surprise came in the shape of a rights issue to shore up a badly holes balance sheet when leading analysts were expecting a confident interim statement showing that the group was on course for full-year profits of £300 million. Instead, the rights issue announcement made it clear that losses might be well over £100 million at the year end.

The funding raised many doubts about the company, its financial controls, its underlying trading position and the quality of its most senior

CAN BRITISH AEROSPACE PULL OUT OF ITS NOSEDIVE?



to have shut regional aircraft down lock, stock and barrel, and to have saved our cash and not paid a dividend." "We could have said stuff the jobs and stuff the exports."

He is aware of the impact of shutting completely the regional aircraft business. It makes the BAe 146 jet and employs 7,000. British Aerospace estimates that a further 20,000 jobs at suppliers could have gone if the business had been closed. But if the joint venture collapses those jobs could still go.

The chilling possibility of a shutdown has been provided for in the £750 million set aside. Mr Cahill explained: "£750 million assumes the worst case. If the joint venture did not happen we would have to go on to another solution which would really have to be closure."

Taiwan, however, should find the joint venture useful. It will assemble one third of the planes planned to be built, plus orders for surplus. Hopes are high of orders from Asia. Mr Cahill said: "We have a very strong impression that the People's Republic of China does not object — we did talk to them."

It would be a pity if the BAe 146 was lost forever. It started life as the Hawker Siddeley 146 and elbowed the old BAe 111 off the production lines when the British Aircraft Corporation was formed in the late seventies as a result of the nationalisation

Although British Aerospace was plainly in rationalisation mode yesterday it is keen on going-it-alone with the European Fighter Aircraft if the Germans finally pull out. "We need to defend ourselves," Mr Evans said. "Like death and taxes, defence will always be with us."

The company believes EFA will work because if the European partners pull out now they will have still donated huge costs to the project. With the plane close to flying most of the costs are in the past.

Similarly BAe remains optimistic, if not secretive, about the Al Yamamah contracts with Saudi Arabia. Yesterday, the company merely said it "was perfectly happy with the way discussions continue."

Though John Cahill and his most senior colleagues have honed a strategy for the future in a remarkably short time, its first outing before the analysts and professional investors of the City has not been a success.

The dramatic fall in the group's shares yesterday was triggered by the sheer scale of the problems at regional aircraft and the severity of the measures needed to tackle them. The clear implication is that other financial horrors may lurk within what has always been an extremely complex company for investors to understand.

Whatever else happens, one man is undoubtedly prepared to make the effort to untangle the significance of yesterday's announcements. Lord Weinstein has already expressed willingness to be part of a solution. Today, he must be even more willing. With the whole of BAe worth little more than £400 million, he may now be able to buy a prime slice of Britain's defence industry for peanuts.

BUSINESS LETTERS

From Mr Michael J. Barrett

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2	Debenham Team	Property	
3	Laporte	Chem./Plas	
4	Boddingtons	Breweries	
5	Buffets	Mining	
6	Anglian Water	Water	
7	Brown & Tawse	Industrial	
8	Logic	Electrical	
9	Berkshire Gp	Building/Rds	
10	Black	Electrical	
11	Wassell	Industrial	
12	London Elecs	Electricity	
13	Caledonia	Finance, Land	
14	Harcroft	Building/Rds	
15	Hastead (D)	Chem./Plas	
16	Sibie	Industrial	
17	T & S Stoves	Drapery/Strs	
18	Warner	Property	
19	AAH	Industrial	
20	Multitone Elect	Electrical	
21	Sun Alliance	Insurance	
22	Rathbone Bros	Finance, Land	
23	Roskru	Industrial	
24	Westbury	Building/Rds	
25	Elli & Everard	Chem./Plas	
26	Read Int	Newspaper/Pub	
27	Apex Coms	Paper/Print	
28	Kelley Ind	Industrial	
29	Tie Rack	Drapery/Strs	
30	CALA	Building/Rds	
31	Vesper Thorny	Industrial	
32	Newman Tuks	Building/Rds	
33	Proswear	Industrial	
34	Creamers El	Electrical	
35	Uni Neopac	Newspaper/Pub	
36	HTF Europe	Transport	
37	Welsh Water	Water	
38	Amstrand	Electrical	
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Gibbs Mew fights off bid from Brierley

BY OUR CITY STAFF

GIBBS Mew, the small brewer quoted on the USM, appears to have seen off an attempt by Brierley Investments (BIL), a hostile bidder, to split the controlling interest in the company held by the Gibbs family and directors.

BIL, when it launched its 200p-a-share bid in August, appealed to family members to act in the interests of all shareholders by accepting new ownership and management of the company. BIL has a 19.7 per cent stake and is the largest single shareholder.

However, in the first defence document from Gibbs Mew, the company, which is based in Salisbury, Wiltshire, claimed that family and director-shareholders representing 55.5 per cent of the ordinary capital intended to reject the offer. In total, the Gibbs family and board own 58 per cent of the company.

BIL reacted angrily to what it described as a *fait accompli* that ignored the interests of independent shareholders.

BIL's Trevor Beyer said: "This makes a mockery of the public-company status of Gibbs Mew. If the Gibbs family wanted to run the company in this way, why did they bring the company to the USM in the first place?"

Gibbs also took the opportunity yesterday to respond to some of the accusations made by BIL about Gibbs's weak market positions and management by announcing the acquisition of a drinks wholesaler and the appointment of a new managing director.

Gibbs is to pay up to £2.87 million for UK D, which distributes beers, ciders, wines, spirits and soft drinks in Greater London, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire. John Hedderson, UK D's joint managing director, will be appointed group managing director of Gibbs Mew on completion of the deal.

UK D made pre-tax profits of £371,000 in the year to end-March. Taxable profits for the six months to end-September are warranted at not less than £450,000.

Electricity supply firms urged to end French connection

BY PATRICIA TEHAN

THE regional electricity supply companies are under pressure to end their contracts with French power suppliers and to take dearer power from UK coal-fired power stations instead, so that a new five-year deal between British Coal and the two main power generators can be signed.

The government's privatisation plans for British Coal are being held up by a delay in the signing of new coal contracts with National Power and PowerGen. The deal depends on an agreement from the 12 regional supply companies and privatisation cannot go ahead until the contracts are signed.

Heads of agreement were due to be signed last week, but divisions between the parties have grown and observers say the signing could now be weeks away rather than days.

The supply companies dispute the volume of coal-generated power they would be

expected to take and the price they would pay. Some are also understood to be under pressure to dismantle fixed-price contracts with Nuclear Electric, the state-owned nuclear generator, which still have four years to run.

The new contracts are due to come into force next April, when the suppliers' three-year contracts with EDF, the French electricity supplier, come to an end.

The government is understood to be keen for the regional suppliers to end their French contracts.

London Electricity and Seaboard are particularly heavy users of French electricity, supplied over a link operated by the National Grid Company.

This year, the French are supplying more than 16 terawatt hours of nuclear-generated electricity to customers in England and Wales.

That is equivalent to the output from two large power

stations, or about 6 per cent of the UK electricity market.

Sources close to the trade department rejected the complaint that pressure was being put on the regional companies not to do a deal with the French.

Yesterday, David Porter,

chief executive of the Association of Independent Energy Producers, gave warning that the coal deal could make it difficult for small energy producers to compete.

"We are wary of any deal which is not entirely transparent," he said. "If such a deal gave particular advantage to the two large generators, if the government persuaded British Coal to sell coal to National Power and PowerGen at special rates, it might enable them to bid down prices in the electricity pool."

That would have short-term advantages for consumers but in the longer term, the regional companies would have fewer generators to turn to.

Earlier this week, Malcolm Edwards, former commercial director at British Coal, gave warning that unless pressures on the British coal industry were relieved, it would not survive beyond the year 2000.

At a meeting of the Coalfield Communities Campaign in Doncaster on Tuesday, he

said it was wrong to argue that British mines could not compete with cheap foreign coal.

One supply company manager said there was pressure

on all companies with contracts for non-coal power that were close to ending, and on those with contracts with Nuclear Electric.

He said: "If the intention is to secure supplies for British Coal, you would expect certain supply companies to be under pressure not to take contracts which would damage that."

Norweb and Northern Electricity are believed to be under most pressure, as they are Nuclear Electric's biggest customers.



Wilting prices: David Sugden of Geest, which made £15.4m at half time

Geest shares slip on warning

BY JON ASHWORTH

SHARES in Geest, Britain's biggest importer of bananas, took a tumble yesterday on a warning that "exceptionally weak" produce prices are biting into profits.

The food group, announcing pre-tax profits of £15.4 million (£15.1 million) for the six months to June 27, said low produce prices in the third quarter were affecting operations. Produce trading results for July and August were significantly below 1991 levels, and, if present market conditions continue, earnings

for the full year may not match 1991. The shares fell 27p to 303p.

David Sugden, chief executive, said: "While our fresh produce businesses have performed well against competition in the first half, the worsening trading conditions in July and August have now inevitably affected us too. However, our strong market share and sound cash position will provide good support for the rest of this year and ensure we move forward as soon as trading conditions permit."

Earnings per share were 15.3p (15.1p). There is an interim dividend of 3.7p (3.6p) a share.

Peking to establish securities houses

FROM REUTER IN PEKING

CHINA has announced plans for three huge securities houses formed by state-owned banks, to control the country's stock and bond markets and restore flagging investor confidence.

Xinhua news agency quoted central bank officials as saying the move would "foster and perfect a unified market in bonds and securities and safeguard stability in the markets".

Other state media made clear the securities houses would act to control prices and prevent wild market swings.

They will be based in Peking, Shanghai and Shenzhen — covering the whole country — with paid-up capital of 1 billion yuan (£104 million) each.

The move seems aimed at helping central government exert control over China's two bourses in Shanghai and Shenzhen, where share prices have roughly halved since a bull run in May.

Riots in Shenzhen last month, sparked by allegations of corruption over a bungled scheme to issue new shares, sent shivers through the markets and highlighted the dangerous inexperience of local officials.

With a crucial communist party congress due to open on October 12, Deng Xiaoping, senior leader, and his reformist allies are anxious to ensure that China's boldest experiment with capitalist-style change is a success.

The bond market is also in the doldrums, partly because funds have been sucked into stocks and the property market.

The Chinese People's Daily stated the "market-style" securities companies would be financially and administratively independent and would be set up soon, having been approved by the People's Bank of China, the central bank. They would buy and sell securities and engage in company research. Later, they would enter international securities markets. The report did not give details.

US ready to widen tariffs on EC steel

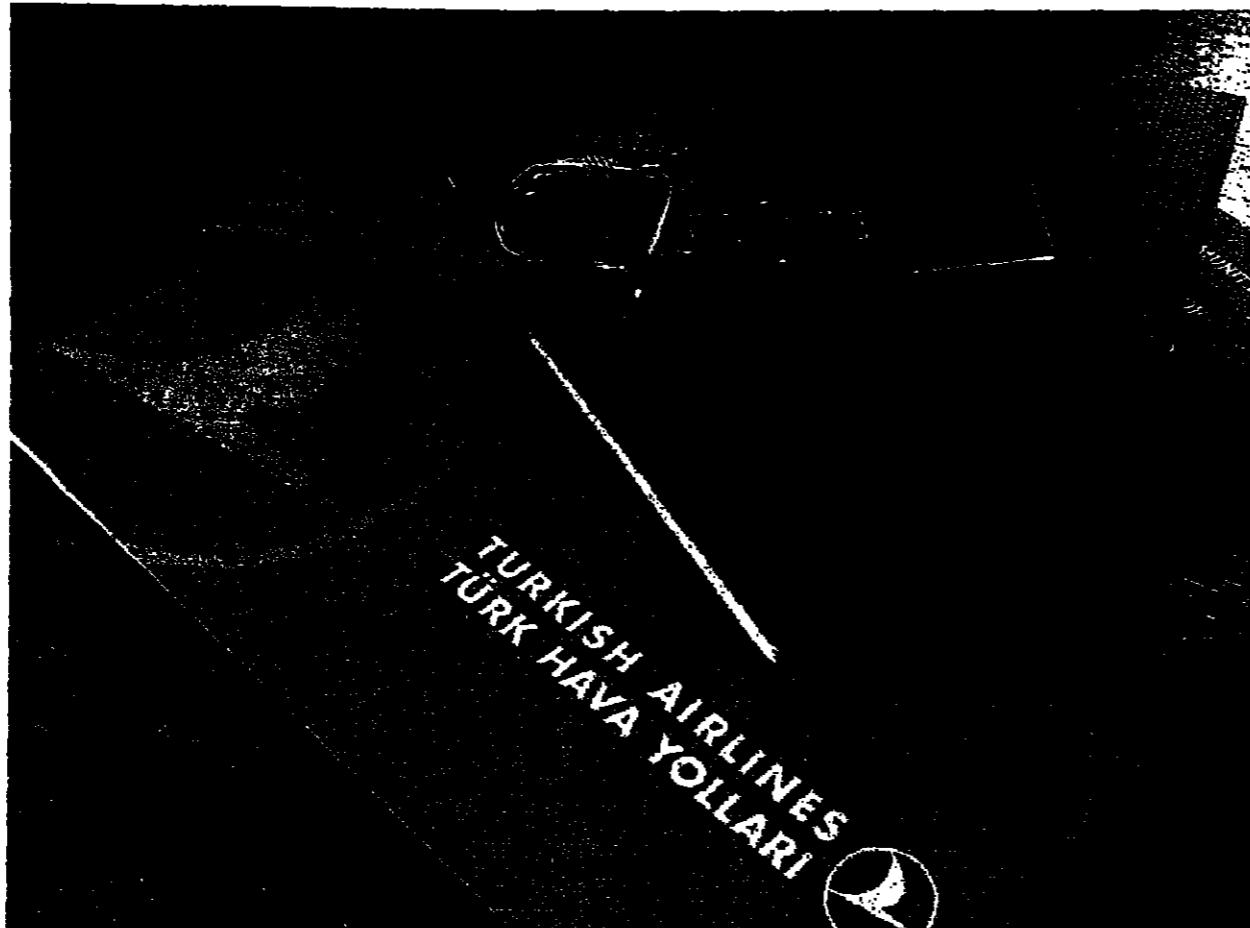
FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN Commission sources say Washington is preparing to widen its new import duties on EC steel products. Such moves reflect a steady decline into protectionism in the steel trade, with the EC itself considering tighter controls on eastern Europe.

Washington warned in July that it was considering duties of as much as 150 per cent on EC steel products, which it claims are unfairly subsidised. Since then the US department of trade has imposed duties on imports of lead and bismuth steel bars from Britain, France and Germany.

Commission sources say now, however, that Washington is on the point of slapping tariffs on all plate steel prod-

the reason why..



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RUGBY UNION

BBC regains ground in its battle for TV rights

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC, which has seen its grip loosened on the rugby union market over the past two years, will start its attempt to regain ground with its coverage of England's international against Canada next month.

A series of ITV raids has provided the independent network with substantial ammunition when the domestic rugby contract comes up for renewal in 1994. As well as its successful bids for the 1991 and 1995 World Cups, ITV has gathered all the summer tours this year, next year's British Isles visit to New Zealand and substantial rights to screen South African rugby. That includes the visit next month to France although, when South Africa arrive in England in November, they come under the BBC umbrella.

The BBC coverage of the England-Canada match will not be in direct contest with ITV's rights to screen the France v South Africa match being played in Lyons on the same day. ITV will wait until October 24 to show highlights of the Lyons match as build-up to extended coverage of the second game between the two countries in Paris.

Thereafter the BBC weighs heavily into an area from which ITV is barred by the existing four home unions contract. The game between the Midland Division and South Africa on November 4 will go out live with highlights in the evening; England v South Africa on November 7 will enjoy highlights in *Grandstand* and will be fed into *Rugby Special* the following day.

There is a BBC2 slot for live coverage of the second half of the match against the Northern Division at Elland Road,

Leeds on November 10 and the England-South Africa international on November 14 will be transmitted live. Given that the BBC can follow that with Wales' game against Australia on November 21, the Barbarians v Australia game on November 28, and will have shown Ireland-Australia on October 31, Jonathan Martin, its head of sport, can hardly be accused of hyperbole when he says it is "a very nice line-up".

Even so the BBC will hope that the first rugby union international to be played at Wembley will offer a good atmosphere to begin its intensive autumn coverage. It is 13 years since Wembley hosted the sport, an ill-fated 15-a-side tournament, so both the stadium organisers and the Rugby Football Union (RFU) will be curious to see the public response.

So far only 10,000 tickets have been sold (Wembley's capacity is 78,000) but the authorities play down the significance of that figure, given that the season (and the advertising campaign) has only just begun. Moreover, rugby enthusiasts will be aware that, for once, they can turn up on the day and be sure of a ticket. A crowd of between 25,000 and 40,000 is expected.

□ Bath, whose chairman and ground committee chairman resigned last week, have postponed a decision on long-term replacements. The club's management committee will meet again on October 13, giving itself time to consider its options. Lang Jones, the vice-chairman, steps temporarily into the role vacated by Roger Berry. Richard Seaman, the first team secretary, will chair the ground committee after the resignation of John Roberts.

Although his decision could have a bearing on his brother's selection, Tony said: "When Rory told me the news I said it was a great move. I don't know why he decided to stand down in the first place. Of course his decision changes things for me. I am used to being behind him, but people were predicting that I would take his place on the left wing and I was hoping that my form and fitness would attract

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Red Bishop ready to spark Ascot double for Gosden

THE key to the Hoover Cumberland Lodge Stakes at Ascot today could well be found in the result of the Gordon Richards Stakes run at Sandown in April.

That group three race was won by the admirable French colt Dear Doctor by a length and a half from Red Bishop and Opera House. Red Bishop and Opera House were separated by only a head at level weights but now Opera House must give Sib to Red Bishop, who acquitted himself well on his comeback at Kempton earlier this month when he split Jeune and Seante Rhyme in the September Stakes.

When he won a listed race at Kempton, also in April, Red Bishop proved that he could handle the soft ground he will encounter today. In those conditions Opera House is likely to find the task of giving that much weight to Red Bishop beyond him.

Opera House has not raced since he finished third in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes over today's course and distance in July when he was beaten six lengths and half a length by St Jovite and Sadler's Hall.

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

Sapience was only half a length behind in fourth that day, but on the same terms Opera House can confirm the form.

Bonny Scot and Garden Of Heaven completed the field. The latter looks out of her depth in this company, but the St Leger third Bonny Scot, who had earlier won competitive races at Goodwood and York, will not be easily brushed aside.

However, John Gosden, who trains Red Bishop and whose horses are in outstanding form at present, has a good line on Bonny Scot through his St Leger runner-up Sosun.

Gosden can go on to land a double by winning the Blue Seal Stakes with Felawrah. The filly is by Mr Prospector out of a champion racehorse in the United States.

She was also one of the six two-year-olds which her trainer singled out when he showed me around Stanley House stables in Newmarket earlier this year. Already the four of

that sextet to have run have all won, which is a fine advertisement for Gosden's judgment.

Fellow Newmarket trainer Sir Mark Prescott can also land a double on the Berkshire track with Two Left Feet (2.30) and Mrs Fisher (5.10).

No horse will appreciate the soft ground more than Two Left Feet, who is my hope to win the Hoover Handicap despite top weight of 10 stone. Last time out, he carried 1lb more into third at Haydock, where he encountered all manner of trouble in the straight.

On that running he was unlucky not to have won his third race in succession having previously triumphed at Salisbury and Ripon on soft going.

Mrs Fisher can seal Prescott's day by winning the Bishopsgate Apprentice Stakes in the care of that promising young rider Jason Weaver. The conditions of the race allow her to meet her three rivals on advantageous terms when compared with their official ratings.

Talbot, trained by John Dunlop, can begin the programme by winning the Clarence House Stakes. If his connections were initially disappointed with his latest run behind Tik Fa and L'Hermine at Doncaster, the sight of Tik Fa subsequently beating colts of the calibre of Hazzam and Hamas at Newbury last Saturday will have given them every cause to revise that opinion.

In the Gordon Carter Handicap, I like none better than David Elsworth's versatile five-year-old Muse, who will strip filter for his recent run behind Ideal Candidate at Goodwood.

Muse, a smart hurdler last season, has already shown that he is quite capable of winning a race of this nature on the Flat. At the moment Marting is a likely runner," Geoffrey

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Rodrigo De Triano's mile hopes sink in soft ground

By MICHAEL SEELY

TORRENTIAL rain on Tuesday night has made it highly unlikely that Rodrigo De Triano will be asked to take on Selkirk in the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at Ascot on Saturday.

With the Challenge Stakes, the Champion Stakes and the Breeders' Cup Classic still high on the agenda of Robert Sangster's dual classic and International Stakes winner, little good would come from a hard race in unfavourable circumstances.

"We'll make up our minds on Friday morning," Peter Chapple-Hyam said yesterday, "but he doesn't like soft ground."

Nicholas Beaumont, the clerk of the course at Ascot, said: "We've had two inches of rain. We've changed the going from good to soft and there are heavy patches going into Swinley Bottom."

Without doubt Saturday's £250,000 feature will decide the champion miler in Europe this season and the altered underfoot conditions will certainly not help either Marting, as she seeks to confirm her Goodwood superiority over Selkirk, or Second Set.

"She is now likely to be supplemented for the Cheveley Park Stakes. The Rockfel Stakes at the following Newmarket meeting is another possible target."

A further disappointment for intending racegoers and the Ascot executive is that both Tenby and White Crown will be missing from the line-up for the Royal Lodge Stakes.

"We've decided to put White Crown away for the season," Ben Hanbury said. "He should make a good three-year-old next year."

Selkirk, All At Sea and Lahib have all shown themselves capable of producing their best form when the mud is flying. In the changed circumstances the 4-1 against All At Sea, the winner of the Prix du Moulin at Longchamp earlier this month, represents cast iron each-way value.

Ladbrokes' latest betting makes Selkirk 11-8 favourite followed by 7-2 Marting, 4-1 All At Sea, 9-1 Lahib, 10-1 Brief Truce and Second Set.

Another absentee at Ascot will be Sayeedah, who will not now run in the Fillies' Mile.

"She wouldn't like the soft going," said Clive Britain about the 1,000 Guineas ante-post favourite.

"She is now likely to be supplemented for the Cheveley Park Stakes. The Rockfel Stakes at the following Newmarket meeting is another possible target."

Confirming that Khalid Abdulla is now likely to be represented in the Grand Criterium by Tenby and in the Dewhurst Stakes by Zalonic, Grant Pritchard-Gordon, the prince's racing manager, said:

"Both Henry Cecil and Andre Fabre have been asked to keep their options open. But we feel that Tenby will be suited by the mile at Longchamp and, at this stage of his career, Zalonic might be more effective over seven furlongs."

Zalonic is 4-1 favourite for next season's 2,000 Guineas on the strength of an impressive performance in the Prix de la Salamandre at Longchamp. Tenby is first choice in the market for next season's Derby at 12-1 after easy wins at Goodwood and Newbury.

"She is now likely to be supplemented for the Cheveley Park Stakes. The Rockfel Stakes at the following Newmarket meeting is another possible target."

Richard Quinn's decision to stay on the fair rails tipped the Waterfall Selling Handicap in his favour.

As many of the field tacked over to the middle of the course on the softened ground, Quinn's mount Gentle Lady ploughed a lone furrow to beat some disappointing rivals.

Gentle Lady was a rare and welcome success for her trainer Alan Jarvis, who is slowly making his way back after a spell out of racing.

Meanwhile, most British middle-handicap professionals are earning well in the low-goal echelons. A substantial measure of their money goes into themselves. And, whereas patrons at the high and medium-thresholds may not be much interested in a four-year-old who keeps a yard containing perhaps five relatively low-priced ponies, he could fit nicely into a low-goal patron's team.

However — as the British players of this standard really complain — that is not the place to be seen by members of the handicap committee, if promotion is the aim.

Although Martin Trotter, the chief umpire, has done much to improve his aspect of the game, it still leaves a great deal to be desired. There remains far too much disputing of umpires' decisions, brawling of umpires, aggressive appealing for fouls, playing for fouls and long and laborious taping up of the ball.

The trouble is that the umpires are so the players and the weaker ones are worried that if they blow the whistle against their confederates, there will be revenge. It is also noticeable that, whereas some players of low-handicap make excellent umpires, others who may be rated at nine or ten handicap, are inept.

It is the latest rancorous German-European dispute, up to the forces of track winning

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By MITCHELL PLATTS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

LAURA Davies will try to give Europe a psychological advantage for the Solheim Cup match against the United States by winning the Weetabix British Open, which starts at Woburn today.

Dottie Mochrie, the leading money-winner on the US LPGA circuit, and Patty Sheehan, the US Open champion, have arrived as the American advance party for the cup match, which starts at Dalmahoy, near Edinburgh.

tomorrow week. Their objective is to lay the foundations for another United States triumph by overwhelming the opposition at Woburn, where all ten of the European team are competing.

Davies has finished in the top ten in the eight Women Professional Golfers' European Tour (WPGT) events she has contested this summer. Her three wins have helped her towards prize-money of £64,397. Davies can secure the top place in the money list for the first time since 1986 if she wins the first prize of £50,000.

She is also aware of the importance of beating Mochrie and Sheehan. "The Solheim Cup is my priority this year," she said. "It would do so much for our tour if we won, especially in front of a British crowd. I would obviously like to tee up next week as British Open champion."

There is a unity among the Europeans which suggests Mochrie and Sheehan will discover that they will not be a team to be underestimated. Florence Descaemps, of Belgium, has won on the LPGA circuit this season and Liselotte Neumann of Swe-

Johnson, Alison Nicholas, Catrin Nielsmark, Dale Reid and Pam Wright are the other members of the European team.

Wright, a Scot who plays regularly in the United States, has been fined \$10,000 for competing without a release from the LPGA. She said: "It's an automatic fine. The LPGA only allow

four players to be released and I'm the fifth one here. But the tournament was too important to miss because I need to be ready for the Solheim Cup."

The credentials of Mochrie

and Sheehan are outstanding. Mochrie has won four times this season, including her first major championship, the Nabisco Dinah Shore. She has earned \$693,335. Sheehan, fourth in the money list, has won \$418,622 and two tournaments, in addition to the US Open.

Penny Grice-Whittaker, meanwhile, is happy to be defending her title following a series of health tests. She said: "I suffered a few palpitations and I've been told to lose weight, stop smoking and to stop biting my nails."

SQUASH RACKETS

Walker in gallant exit against Finn

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN
IN JOHANNESBURG

CHRIS Walker's long South African summer ended here yesterday when he failed to achieve a world Open quarter-final place after being narrowly beaten by Sami Elopuro, of Finland.

In the most enthralling encounter of the tournament, Elopuro, the seventh seed, won 11-15, 15-8, 15-14, 17-16 in 85 minutes, and must thank Walker's sense of adventure for the victory as much as his own athletic balance and speed.

Walker is one of three Essex players who committed themselves to this championship by moving their training and preparation to South Africa immediately after the European team championships in May. Tony Hands also battled hard yesterday, losing 15-3, 15-7, 16-17, 15-9 to Janusz Khan, the top seed from Pakistan.

Walker's decision to choose a sudden death tie-break at 14-14 in the third game would have raised the blood pressure of his old Essex coaching colleagues.

Aged 25 and placed second behind Peter Marshall in the England rankings, Walker reached the second round by defeating Derek Ryan, the Irish No. 1, who was later beaten up by four young Afrikaanders in an Irish bar. Walker began fluently against the light-framed and severely accurate Finn, taking the first game 15-11 in 16 minutes.

However, Elopuro stiffened the sinew to take the second game in only eight minutes and was leading 7-4 in the third before Walker regained his poise.

The exchange of clinging drives and pinpoint drop shots that carried the score to 14-14 in that 20-minute third game was the most eye-catching aspect of the tournament so far.

Walker's instant selection of a single point decider silenced the excited audience at the Standard Bank Arena but his immediate dispatch of Elopuro's service into the tin as he attempted a volley cross-court at the left-hand nick had them on their feet cheering.

After an absorbing battle in the fourth game, Elopuro ended the long, final rally with a crisp backhand straight drive into the left-hand nick.

In earlier matches Ross Norman, of New Zealand, 33, the former world champion, lost to Austin Adarraga, a Spanish qualifier, and Tristan Nancarrow, the sixth seed, lost to Rodney Eyles in an all-Australian encounter.

Results, page 29

Couples, Love and Kite start favourites

Americans step up their drive for the Dunhill Cup

By MITCHELL PLATTS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

FRED Couples, Tom Kite and Davis Love III will represent the United States in the Alfred Dunhill Cup on the Old Course at St Andrews from October 15 to 18. Couples, the Masters champion, Kite, the US Open champion, and Love, who won the Players Championship, will be favourites to share the first prize of £300,000.

The United States have had several embarrassing defeats in the competition, which they have won only once since its inauguration in 1985. France overwhelmed them in the first round in 1990 and South Africa exposed their frailties last year, when Sweden went on to triumph.

So the decision of Couples,

Kite and Love, the best three players in the United States this year, to present a united front demonstrates the importance the Americans now attach to the international scene. There would appear to be a new doctrine among their players for team events following the Ryder Cup at Kiawah Island last year, when they beat Europe for the first time since 1983.

Kite is particularly keen to put the record straight because he lost to Emmanuel Dussart, of France, at St Andrews in 1990 and he subsequently forfeited his place in the Ryder Cup team.

The Americans' chances of victory must also be helped by the fact that Nick Faldo has declined to play for England.

for whom David Gilford, Steven Richardson and Jamie Spence will link Scotland (Sandy Lyle, Colin Montgomery and Gordon Brand Jr) and Ireland (Ronan Rafferty, Christy O'Connor Jr and Philip Walton) are also represented but Wales failed to qualify.

Greg Norman will also hope to revitalise Australia. Winners in 1985 and 1986, they have been beaten in the first round in each of the last three years, by France, New Zealand and Canada respectively.

Norman, who will be joined by Ian Baker-Finch and Rodger Davis, is excited again about his future in the game following his success two weeks ago in the Canadian Open, his first win for more than two years. His first priority in Britain, however, will be to win, for a fourth time, the Toyota World Match Play Championship, to be played at Wentworth from October 8 to 11.

Severiano Ballesteros, the defending champion, will be seeking to win the title for a record sixth time although Faldo, winner in 1989, will start the favourite in a field which will also include Nick Price, the US PGA champion, Ian Woosnam and José María Olazábal.

Couples, Kite and Love all declined invitations for varying reasons. Couples is contracted to play in the Honda Open in Hamburg and Kite is opening a new course which he has designed in Nashville.

John Cook, runner-up to Faldo in the Open, was also invited but, like Love, he is playing that week in the Las Vegas Invitational tournament.

Brad Faxon, Mark O'Meara and Jeff Sluman are being suggested as the American representatives. They will, however, have history against them because not since Bill Rogers won in 1979 has an American taken the title. Indeed, Ben Crenshaw, in 1981, was the last American to reach the final. The first prize for the event has been increased to £160,000.

"It will be the death of the European superstars and will mean a shorter playing life for the players. I haven't expressed my view officially, because perhaps they won't listen." Ballesteros, who has missed four cuts out of the last five, will, nevertheless, be anxious to boost an ailing personal season.

He faces tough competition in this £600,000 event. Eight of the top ten players in the money list are appearing on the long, tight Royal Zoute links, and yet again Nick Faldo will be attempting to pass the record figure of £574,166 set last year by Ian Woosnam for earnings in a European season.

Faldo needs to finish 49th or better. Since he has yet to finish lower than 21st in Europe this season, he should have little trouble in passing that particular quality test.

"This is now a world tour," he said. "The European Tour

started after the US Masters and finished in September," he said. "Now it has become a year-round schedule, and I think it's wrong. No human being can play all the year round and play well all the time. I think 32 tournaments in a season would be plenty."

Ballesteros is not overjoyed, either, that the success of the European Tour is taking it to all parts of the globe — venues next year will include Durban, Singapore and Dubai in a 46-event season.

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The speaker was Severiano Ballesteros, who was responding to the PGA European Tour's outline schedule announced on Tuesday.

Ballesteros is to say, was not happy with what some of his peers might have been very good news indeed.

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FOOTBALL

Cup draw against minnows adds to strain on Souness

By LOUISE TAYLOR

BOOKMAKERS and a former Liverpool captain are among the vultures circling Graeme Souness, the club's manager, and his team after their 4-4 home draw with Chesterfield, of the third division, in their Coca-Cola Cup match on Tuesday night.

The result capped Liverpool's worst start to a season for 28 years and followed a 4-2 loss at Aston Villa on Saturday. Liverpool were hard hit by injuries for both games, but Emlyn Hughes, a captain at Anfield in the Sevens, has criticised the players for failing to show commitment and passion.

Bookmakers are offering Kevin Keegan at 5-1 to be in charge at Liverpool for the start of next season. Other former Liverpool players, John Toshack (6-1), Kenny Dalglish and Phil Thompson (8-1) and Alan Hansen (10-1) are the others in the betting market.

The last time Liverpool saw a scoreline like Tuesday night's was against Everton in an FA Cup fifth-round replay last February, and within hours Dalglish quit as manager because of the pressures. There are no signs yet that Souness will follow suit, but the man who this year had open-heart surgery must be feeling the strain.

Kasey Keller made one mistake at Arsenal on Tuesday night and Millwall's United States goalkeeper was punished harshly for it. It occurred in the 78th minute of a second round, first leg, Coca-Cola Cup tie at Highbury when Kevin Campbell met Paul

Merson's pass to squeeze a low drive between Keller's legs.

That shot should have been a formality for the goalkeeper, who had earlier made a string of splendid saves, most notably from Alan Smith, who could be on his way to Nottingham Forest, and Paul

McCarthy's collection of cast-offs and YTS boys (total value £90,000) were unlucky not to win in front of a crowd of more than 10,000 Cumbrians who have been impressed by the dynamism of Michael Knighton, their new chairman, Barnsley and Edmonton were on target for Carlisle, and Robins and Goss for Norwich.

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Carlisle United were the only Premier League club to lose in the Coca-Cola Cup on Tuesday, going down 2-1 to Bristol City at Ashton Gate.

Denis Smith's first division side, who had conceded ten goals in their previous two league games, had efforts from Edwards and Scott to thank for victory.

Vinny Jones put his foot in at Burnden Park. Happily it

was not into a reckless tackle, but a side-foot past Branagan, the Bolton Wanderers goalkeeper, which put Wimbledon 3-1 up. Earlier Fashanu and Ardley had scored for the Premier League side in a bruising encounter which produced five bookings.

Leeds United, the league champions, ended a six-match run without victory with a comfortable 4-1 win against Scunthorpe United at Elland Road. Leeds, however, are anxious about Tony Dorigo, their left back, who limped off with an ankle injury and is doubtful for next week's European Cup tie in Stuttgart.

Norwich City, the Premier League leaders, were brought

down to earth with a bump at Brunton Park where they were held to a 2-2 draw by Carlisle United, the side who finished bottom of the Football League last season.

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Back injury threatens Gretzky's career

LOS ANGELES: Wayne Gretzky, the leading goal scorer in the history of America's National Hockey League, will be out of ice hockey indefinitely because of a herniated disc.

The Los Angeles Kings centre said this week that he had been suffering from an "excruciatingly painful" upper back problem. He said that the pain had subsided, and he held out hope that he would be able to return to the ice.

"We are taking it one day at a time," Gretzky, 31, said at a news conference at The Great Western Forum, where the Kings make their home.

Gretzky checked himself into Centinela Hospital last Tuesday because of chest pains caused by the injury. Dr Robert Watkins told the news conference that Gretzky's injury was a herniated thoracic disk, which was intruding into his upper spine. He said there was no injury to the spine.

Watkins, of the Kerlan-Jobe Clinic, said he had recommended intensive pain-killing medication for Gretzky and that once the pain was gone he would undergo physical therapy.

"Then we'll see what happens," Watkins said.

"We are quite optimistic that Wayne can certainly have an excellent chance of recovery from his injury. There is the possibility that he can return this year, but there is no guarantee," he said.

Asked about the long-term prospects of Gretzky returning as a player, Watkins said: "As I said, there is no guarantee."

Watkins said the pain that forced Gretzky to the hospital last week may have been brought on by the excitement over his wife Janet giving



Under stress: Gretzky shows the strain at his press conference

birth to their third child the day before.

Gretzky said: "After Janet had her baby I spent the night with my daughter and my son and when I woke up Tuesday the pain in my chest was enormous.

"I still feel pressure in my chest, but I'm feeling a lot better today than I did last

Wednesday. Maybe the excitement of the new baby will help it isn't. From a franchise point of view, you can't replace Wayne Gretzky, but it isn't a one-man sport. We hope to remain very competitive."

"Everyone says, 'What will happen when Wayne retires?' Now we will find out, for a few months, or however long it is." (Reuters)

CYCLING

Nelissen takes first stage of Irish race

IT was the Belgian, Wilfried Nelissen, who sprinted to victory in yesterday's opening stage of the Nissan Tour of Ireland, over 112 miles from Dublin to Dundalk. He held off Phil Anderson, the Australian, who has won five Nissan stages in previous years.

A second-year professional, Nelissen is fast gaining a reputation as one of the best sprinters in the sport though he is a poor climber and just survived the one-in-six ascent of Clermont Cairn in the Cooley Mountains before the fast descent to Dundalk.

There, after two laps of a circuit around the town, Nelissen cleverly positioned himself and successfully held off Anderson, the winner of the 1991 Kellogg's Tour of Britain. The Dutchman Adri van der Poel was third ahead of Hendrik Redant, of Belgium, the Mexican, Raul

Alcala, and Willie Engelbrecht, from South Africa.

Sean Yates, the British champion and Anderson's Motorola team-mate, had made a brave bid for victory when he escaped just before the bell on the four-mile finishing circuit. He was caught with two miles left.

The climb through the Cooleys split the field into three main groups, with Eric Breukink, of Holland, the 1990 Nissan winner, launching an attack in the company of the American rider, Lance Armstrong.

Breukink dropped Armstrong approaching the summit, but Stephen Roche, whom the Irish are backing for victory, came up fast to join the Dutchman. With Anderson leading the chase, Breukink and Roche were caught by the 100-mile mark.

McManus led 2-1 following

SNOOKER

McManus punished for errors

By PHIL YATES

THE weight of expectation of playing at home proved too great a burden for two of Scotland's leading prospects in the first round of the Regal Masters which got under way at Motherwell civic centre yesterday.

Alan McManus, a semi-finalist in the world championship five months ago, was beaten 5-3 by James Wattana, 18, a second-season professional who has already made a positive impression on the circuit, returning weekly, 5-1, to Neal Foulds, the world No. 5.

Although Small, one of four wild card invitees into the 12-man invitation tournament, never seriously threatened to cause an upset, McManus had a number of opportunities to secure a quarter-final place against Jimmy White, the third seed.

Wattana eventually won that frame on the pink for 2-2



McManus' burden

and on the resumption he added three of the next four as the usually dependable McManus continued to commit expensive errors.

"I think I would prefer to play away from home," McManus, the world No. 13, said. "Having a lot of support is great but it's also difficult to cope with." Small held similar views, for he admitted: "I felt under more pressure playing this match than I did at the Crucible."

Small failed dismally to reproduce the form that carried him to the last 16 of this year's world championship on his debut.

On the other hand, Foulds will be happy with a solid display much needed after his elimination from the qualifying rounds of two overseas ranking events at Blackpool earlier in the month.

RESULTS: First round: N Foulds (Eng) b C Small (Scot), 5-1; J Wattana (Thail) b A McManus (Scot), 5-3.

VOLLEYBALL

Scots expel Telford for not paying fine

THREE days before the season opens, Telford, the Scottish men's cup winners for the past two years, were yesterday expelled from the Royal Bank Scottish League. They had failed to pay a £200 fine imposed for distributing a fanzine-type publication ridiculing officials.

The Edinburgh side, Scotland's most successful men's team over the last 20 years, had until noon yesterday to pay the fine for "bringing the game into disrepute." The deadline passed without payment of the fine and an official of the Scottish Volleyball Association (SVA) confirmed: "As of noon today, Telford have forfeited their place in the men's first division."

It was also confirmed that only nine teams would take part in the top division and no team would be promoted to take Telford's place. Telford successfully appealed but have failed to pay the substitute fine. Their players are free to join other clubs.

were due to meet Team Fife in their first match on Saturday. The SVA had originally banned Telford for a year and had also fined and banned all their players from playing, coaching, refereeing or administrating at any event for a similar period. It was the most severe punishment the association had ever imposed.

Telford successfully appealed but have failed to pay the substitute fine. Their players are free to join other clubs.

□ The former New Zealand scrum half, Clayton Friend, is expected to sign for Whitehaven later this week.

National Westminster Bank Interest Rates

National Westminster Bank announces the following interest rates, effective from 24 September 1992:

Savings

Net Interest per annum	Crown Reserve 3 Months notice £50,000 and above £25,000 - £49,999	Gross Interest per annum
6.19%	8.25%	8.51%
6.00%	8.00%	8.24%
5.34%	7.625%	7.85%

MOTOR RALLYING	PARIS-BELGIUM RALLY: 18th stage: 1. K. Nilsson (Swe) 2. M. Wallberg (Swe) 3. B. Waldegard (Swe) 4. C. Alen (Fin) 5. P. Solberg (Nor) 6. S. Vatanen (Fin) 7. J. P. Andruet (Fra) 8. S. Wallberg (Swe) 9. J. Wallberg (Swe) 10. D. Llambias (Spa) 11. J. Wallberg (Swe) 12. J. Wallberg (Swe) 13. J. Wallberg (Swe) 14. S. Wallberg (Swe) 15. D. Ruyter (Ned) 16. Inch Coats (GBR) 17. J. Wallberg (Swe) 18. D. Ruyter (Ned) 19. Inch Coats (GBR) 20. D. Ruyter (Ned) 21. Inch Coats (GBR) 22. D. Ruyter (Ned) 23. Inch Coats (GBR) 24. D. Ruyter (Ned) 25. Inch Coats (GBR) 26. Inch Coats (GBR) 27. Inch Coats (GBR) 28. Inch Coats (GBR) 29. Inch Coats (GBR) 30. Inch Coats (GBR) 31. Inch Coats (GBR) 32. Inch Coats (GBR) 33. Inch Coats (GBR) 34. Inch Coats (GBR) 35. Inch Coats (GBR) 36. Inch Coats (GBR) 37. Inch Coats (GBR) 38. Inch Coats (GBR) 39. Inch Coats (GBR) 40. Inch Coats (GBR) 41. Inch Coats (GBR) 42. Inch Coats (GBR) 43. Inch Coats (GBR) 44. Inch Coats (GBR) 45. Inch Coats (GBR) 46. Inch Coats (GBR) 47. Inch Coats (GBR) 48. Inch Coats (GBR) 49. Inch Coats (GBR) 50. Inch Coats (GBR) 51. Inch Coats (GBR) 52. Inch Coats (GBR) 53. Inch Coats (GBR) 54. Inch Coats (GBR) 55. Inch Coats (GBR) 56. Inch Coats (GBR) 57. Inch Coats (GBR) 58. Inch Coats (GBR) 59. Inch Coats (GBR) 60. Inch Coats (GBR) 61. Inch Coats (GBR) 62. Inch Coats (GBR) 63. Inch Coats (GBR) 64. Inch Coats (GBR) 65. Inch Coats (GBR) 66. Inch Coats (GBR) 67. Inch Coats (GBR) 68. Inch Coats (GBR) 69. Inch Coats (GBR) 70. Inch Coats (GBR) 71. Inch Coats (GBR) 72. Inch Coats (GBR) 73. Inch Coats (GBR) 74. Inch Coats (GBR) 75. Inch Coats (GBR) 76. Inch Coats (GBR) 77. Inch Coats (GBR) 78. Inch Coats (GBR) 79. Inch Coats (GBR) 80. Inch Coats (GBR) 81. Inch Coats (GBR) 82. Inch Coats (GBR) 83. Inch Coats (GBR) 84. Inch Coats (GBR) 85. Inch Coats (GBR) 86. Inch Coats (GBR) 87. Inch Coats (GBR) 88. Inch Coats (GBR) 89. Inch Coats (GBR) 90. Inch Coats (GBR) 91. Inch Coats (GBR) 92. Inch Coats (GBR) 93. Inch Coats (GBR) 94. Inch Coats (GBR) 95. Inch Coats (GBR) 96. Inch Coats (GBR) 97. Inch Coats (GBR) 98. Inch Coats (GBR) 99. Inch Coats (GBR) 100. Inch Coats (GBR) 101. Inch Coats (GBR) 102. Inch Coats (GBR) 103. Inch Coats (GBR) 104. Inch Coats (GBR) 105. Inch Coats (GBR) 106. Inch Coats (GBR) 107. Inch Coats (GBR) 108. Inch Coats (GBR) 109. Inch Coats (GBR) 110. Inch Coats (GBR) 111. Inch Coats (GBR) 112. Inch Coats (GBR) 113. Inch Coats (GBR) 114. Inch Coats (GBR) 115. Inch Coats (GBR) 116. Inch Coats (GBR) 117. Inch Coats (GBR) 118. Inch Coats (GBR) 119. Inch Coats (GBR) 120. Inch Coats (GBR) 121. Inch Coats (GBR) 122. Inch Coats (GBR) 123. Inch Coats (GBR) 124. Inch Coats (GBR) 125. Inch Coats (GBR) 126. Inch Coats (GBR) 127. Inch Coats (GBR) 128. Inch Coats (GBR) 129. Inch Coats (GBR) 130. Inch Coats (GBR) 131. Inch Coats (GBR) 132. Inch Coats (GBR) 133. Inch Coats (GBR) 134. Inch Coats (GBR) 135. Inch Coats (GBR) 136. Inch Coats (GBR) 137. Inch Coats (GBR) 138. Inch Coats (GBR) 139. Inch Coats (GBR) 140. Inch Coats (GBR) 141. Inch Coats (GBR) 142. Inch Coats (GBR) 143. Inch Coats (GBR) 144. Inch Coats (GBR) 145. Inch Coats (GBR) 146. Inch Coats (GBR) 147. Inch Coats (GBR) 148. Inch Coats (GBR) 149. Inch Coats (GBR) 150. Inch Coats (GBR) 151. Inch Coats (GBR) 152. Inch Coats (GBR) 153. Inch Coats (GBR) 154. Inch

THE TIMES SPORT

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 24 1992

Faeroe Islands and Lithuania do themselves proud in World Cup qualifiers

Czechs end Welsh hopes of a shock

WELSH hopes of a shock win by the Faeroe Islands in Czechoslovakia lasted until the 86th minute of the group four qualifier yesterday in the eastern city of Kosice. The Czechs, who are in the same group as Wales eventually won 4-0 but only with the help of three goals in the final five minutes.

Vaclav Nemecek had put them ahead in the 24th minute but it was over an hour before the hosts scored again through Kuka from Moravick's cross. Kuka was on target again in the 87th minute. Dubovsky's last-minute penalty completed Czechoslovakia's victory.

Denmark, who have yet to win a game since their European Championship triumph in June, failed again in Vilnius yesterday. The Danish midfield player, Kim Christoffe, even missed a penalty as his country drew 0-0 with Lithuania in a group three game.

The second goalless draw for the Danes against a Baltic team, following the game in Latvia last month, left the Republic of Ireland still clear group leaders with maximum points from two games.

Christoffe, who plays for Cologne in Germany, was fouled inside the area and took the penalty kick himself. But his shot was saved by Martinkenas, who flung his body in the way of the shot.

The Danes had plenty of possession and showed more enterprise but were unable to break down a well-organized Lithuanian defence. The Danish forwards showed little sign of improving on their lamentable performance against Latvia and became ragged in the second half. Their best chances were missed by players with English connections.

The former Luton Town forward, Lars Elstrup, came closest to scoring in the second half, blasting the ball just wide after a pass from Kim Vilfort.



Smiling again: Paul Gascoigne, the England midfielder player, training with his new club, Lazio, yesterday afternoon before their match with Tottenham Hotspur in Rome. In typical fashion, Gascoigne put Lazio ahead after ten minutes

had left the Lithuanians out of position. John Jensen released by Arsenal from their Coca-Cola Cup tie against Millwall on Tuesday, had missed an open goal in the 42nd minute. The midfield player blazed the ball over the bar from inside the area with Martinkenas helpless on the ground.

Lithuania, the best side of the three newly-independent

Baltic republics, were more positive in attack than Latvia and had two good chances themselves. Late in the first half Viktoras Olshanski broke clear of the Danish defence but his low shot from the edge of the area was deflected to safety by the legs of the Manchester United goalkeeper, Peter Schmeichel. When Schmeichel was

caught off his line in the 54th minute to lift a Danish defender had to head off the line from Andrus Zhut's chip. The result piled more agony on to Danish coach Richard Moeller Nielsen, whose side lost 2-1 to Germany earlier this month in a friendly re-run of the European championship final.

Lithuania had already beaten

Latvia 2-1 and pulled off a surprise 2-2 draw away to Northern Ireland in between losing to Albania 1-0 in previous qualifying games.

In Budapest, a crowd of less than three thousand saw Hungary and Israel complete another goalless draw in a friendly match. They gave the small crowd little to cheer. A half-dozen chances for the

Hungarians and several for Israel kept both goalkeepers busy, but play was otherwise lacklustre.

Kiprich came close for Hungary in the second minute, and the home goalkeeper, Balag, just stopped a shot by Tlka in the 15th minute. A goal by Loerincz five minutes from the end was denied for offside.

TCCB dishes up £5,000 fine to Lamb

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

ALAN Lamb's public portrayal of the Pakistanis as ball-doctoring cheaters brought him a £5,000 fine yesterday from the disciplinary committee of the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB).

Lamb's accusation had been variously viewed as courageous, crusading and cynical malpractice. The committee sitting in judgment yesterday left no doubt as to its opinion.

The £5,000 fine imposed on Lamb equalled the stiffer handed out by the TCCB. Mike Gatting was fined the same amount in 1988 for unauthorised comments in a book about the row between him and Shakoor Rana, the Pakistani umpire.

Lamb was also ordered to pay £1,000 as costs of his hearing and, when added to the £2,000 fine and two-match suspension already enforced by his county, Northamptonshire, his is the heaviest punishment of its kind cricket has known.

Last night, Lamb was urgently considering an appeal to the Cricket Council but, while he ponders, officialdom should brace itself for further public outrage over what many will translate as punishing a man twice for one technical offence.

There is a widely held conviction, not without some justification, that Lamb is being pilloried for telling the unpalatable truth on an issue that has had the game's ruling bodies, both national and international, running embarrassingly for the cover of silence.

It is now more than a month since the Texaco Trophy match at Lord's which prompted Lamb, for whatever motive, to speak out in the *Daily Mirror*, accusing the Pakistani bowlers of having tampered with match balls throughout the summer. As the ball had been changed at Lord's, for reasons still unexplained by the International Cricket Council, Lamb's

outing seemed perfect. But, as he had also inferred, the same weekend, that he would not be in the England tour party this winter, altruism may not have been his only motivation.

The *Daily Mirror* has prolonged the story remorselessly, if at times ludicrously, but Lamb's solicitor, Alan Herd, told the tribunal yesterday that his client was not paid for the revelations. He also, rather ambiguously, said that any money which the abuse was to be paid to the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

Herd, in confirming the possibility of an appeal, complained that the match referee's and umpires' reports on the Lord's incident were not made available, either before or during the hearing. His point is evidently that they would prove that Lamb had truth on his side in his allegations.

This, however, overlooks the TCCB's emphasis yesterday that it did not take the degree of truth into account when deciding on Lamb's sentence. He has not, significantly, been punished for bringing the game into disrepute, only for disregarding the TCCB regulation that forbids players from making unauthorised public statements.

The nine-man tribunal, chaired by Lancashire's Eddie Slinger, one of three legal men on the committee, sat for almost three hours before issuing judgment and condemning Lamb for "a deliberate and flagrant breach of regulations". Its statement added that Lamb's "previous exemplary record" was taken into account possibly saving him from further suspension.

Lamb is saying nothing other than through his solicitor and, perhaps, the *Daily Mirror*. He has three options: swallow the medicine, go to appeal, or up sticks and take the permanent job in South Africa with which Western Province are apparently tempting him.

French given early view of Springboks

By CHRIS THAU

ALL 45 players in the French international squad will play against the South Africans during the early matches of their nine-match rugby union tour of France, it was announced in Paris yesterday.

"What we are trying to do is to see in action all the players who took part in the summer tours to Argentina and Zimbabwe. We'll also want to see the players who have been asked to take a summer break, in other words Sella, Mesnel and Lafond, as well as those who return after suspension, Lascube, Rounat, Benazzi

and company," Christophe Monbet, the French assistant coach, said.

In the first match of the tour in Bordeaux, Gerome Cazalou, the Toulouse scrum half, captains a powerful French XV with nine full internationals, including the Parisian flanker, Xavier Blond, and the centre, Mesnel, who is making a comeback after missing the tour to Argentina. His former partner and captain, Philippe Sella leads an equally-strong Aquitaine side that includes the 'reformed' trio Lascube (sent off in the five nations' match against England), Rounat (sent off against New Zealand in the centenary series) and Benazzi (sent off in a French championship game), as well as the Argentine tour players, Christian Coeurville and Philippe Bernat-Salles, who won their first caps this year.

Fabien Galthie, the international scrum half, will captain a strong Mid-Pyrenees in Toulouse in the third game. It will feature among others the former rugby league defector, Alain Carrinat, now reinstated as an amateur.



Roddan critical of demands

LINFORD Christie's coach, Ron Roddan, yesterday criticised the overcrowded athletics' schedule which has forced the Olympic champion to run through the pain barrier in Havana tomorrow.

Ron Roddan believes the World Cup team event in Cuba is a "waste of time" and should not have been scheduled to take place at the end of an exhausting Olympic summer that has taken its toll on leading athletes.

He is also angry that international officials keep placing more unfair demands on the world's leading performers by increasing the congestion of the global fixture list.

The Italian Fondmetal Ford team has withdrawn from the Portuguese grand prix because of financial problems.

competition tomorrow in the 100 metres suffering from severe back and hamstring pain, while many of his senior colleagues have opted to ignore the event because of injury, illness and weariness.

"This meeting is just a waste of time really," Roddan said. "It's simple — there's just too much competition and they keep asking too much of the athletes."

"It's ridiculous. We've got a world championships every two years now instead of every four; in 1994, we've got the Europeans and Commonwealths in the space of a couple of weeks, and now they're talking about staging the European Cup every year."

"Linford wants to run the world championships in Stuttgart next year because it's the one gold he hasn't got, but I don't think the world title means a thing now — the Olympics are what count."

Roddan puts the blame on the International Amateur Athletic Federation president, Primo Nebiolo, saying: "It seems it's only Mr Nebiolo who wants two-year world championships. He's trying to make them bigger than the Olympics, but the event is being devalued."

Roddan, though, is confident of Christie's chances in Havana. "Linford won this title in Barcelona three years ago — and I expect him to do just what he has to do to defend it," he said.

Ridgeon's role, page 26

Prost to test-drive Williams

ALAIN Prost was reassured yesterday about his chances of leading the Williams-Renault team in the Formula One motor racing world championship next year (Norman Howell writes). It was disclosed that he will test-drive for the team at Estoril on Tuesday, two days after the Portuguese grand prix.

The Frenchman will be driving a modified version of the FW14 — in which Nigel Mansell won the world championship — with narrower, 15-inch tyres, to conform to the specifications for the 1993 world championship. Williams will have another car at the test session, probably to be driven by Damon Hill.

The news will come as a relief to Prost, 38, the three-

times world champion. His chances of driving for Williams in 1993 seemed to be receding.

Even though he had signed a contract with Williams in February, the availability of Ayrton Senna had made his prospects less secure. It was said that Frank Williams, the head of the team, and others were keen to have the younger and faster Brazilian in the team after the resignation of Mansell.

Prost has taken a year off following his dismissal from Ferrari. His testing of the car does not automatically mean he will be driving it next year, it may just be that his contract includes testing and that Williams is using Prost, a brilliant test driver, for as long as it can.

And it does not exclude the possibility that Williams has found a way of making Prost accept Senna as a team-mate.

Martin Brundle, the most likely other driver to be offered a seat with Williams, has not yet been optioned by Williams, which may point to Williams and Patrick Head, his technical director, trying to sign Senna in addition to Prost.

Prost will relish his first chance of driving a car with active suspension; it will be interesting to see how he compares the Williams with other championship-winning cars.

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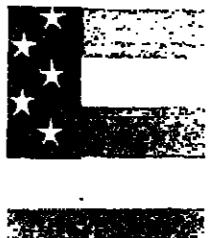
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Gwent	061 462223	Kingston	01546 5940	Sheffield	0742 722801
Gloucester	081 462343	Liverpool	0151 226222	Southend	01702 222222
Cambridge	0223 513483	Manchester	0161 226222	Southsea	01483 526423
Nottingham	0602 222222	Nottingham	0115 222222	Sunderland	0191 222222
Derby	0332 222222	Nottingham	0115 222222	Swindon	01225 222222
Leeds	0113 222222	Nottingham	0115 222222	Weymouth	01302 222222
Warrington	01925 222222	Nottingham	0115 222222	Worcester	01292 222222
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LIFE & TIMES

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 24 1992

Pocket guide to a small change

The last of the pre-decimal coins is going to a silvery grave

M ore dismal news for MPs debating the economy today: the pound in our pockets is about to shrink yet again. Not because of another body-blow from speculators on the exchanges, but because the Royal Mint is to introduce at the end of the month a new streamlined ten pence piece, scarcely half the weight of the one which has been wearing holes in pockets for 143 years.

In itself, this is a trivial milestone — just one more small step in the inexorable progress of the pound towards invisibility. Any time now we shall have to start handling our change with tweezers. But the disappearance of the old 10p, the former florin, has a certain historic resonance, for it marks the end of the old pre-decimal coinage.

Regular mental arithmetic over that ripe duodecimal-vigesimal miscellany was the exercise that gave the Victorians the brain power to run the empire. Ironically, the florin, one tenth of a sovereign, was originally introduced as part



Mint condition: the new ten pence piece (front) and the old, in proportion

of an early project to decimalise that ancient chaos of twenty shillings, twelve pence and four farthings. It got off to a bad start: the first version did not carry the time-honoured abbreviation "Dei Gratia" ("by grace of God"). An outbreak of cholera soon after its appearance was blamed on the "Godless florin". The coin was hastily redesigned, and the head of the Royal Mint resigned.

Yet the florin has outstayed all its contemporaries, with their more affectionate nicknames — bobs, ha'pennies, joey tanners and the rest. It has come through all this century's devaluations and debasements, though with a grotesquely diminished purchasing power. In the mid-1960s it was worth as much as today's shrunken pound; its godless original in 1849 was worth £3.73 at 1992 rates.

Once it has been withdrawn, nothing will be circulating any longer than is older than 1971. It will be the final stroke in the radical erosion that inflation has made on the entertainment value of our small change. Nobody has succeeded in fastening a nickname on any of the ephemeral items in today's coinage.

While the florin survives, there is at least a theoretical chance of finding in one's change a polished piece of silver stamped with the shaggy image of a monarch who lived generations ago, perhaps even with the profile of the young Victoria burnished almost to invisibility and far more beautiful than it ever was when fresh. The old coins has momentous air corresponding to their original value — well-crafted metal substantial enough to weigh down the eyelids of corpses.

Their dates made each one an everyday chronicle of its coeval events — wars, coronations, Crystal Palaces, grandparents' dates of birth. No wonder educationalists lament the fact that today's pupils leave school with such a hazy grasp of history. What incentive today have children to learn history, when there is no history in their pocket?

GEORGE HILL

A crucible for Major's mettle

As Parliament assembles, John Grigg recalls great dramatic moments in the chamber

John Major faces his most severe test today in the place where political reputations are made and unmade. Though presumably in no imminent danger of being brought down, he has to repair his damaged reputation and not allow John Smith to win the argument. Never, since he became prime minister at an unusually early age, has the challenge to his intelligence and character been so daunting. As he prepares for the ordeal, he may reflect on the way others have managed to dominate the House of Commons.

The big parliamentary occasions have always commanded intense public interest, and now we can watch them on television. Such occasions take different forms of which the most significant are these set-piece contests between party leaders on general policy: confidence debates on particular issues, involving either the prime minister or one of his or her colleagues, statements by ministers

probably the best this century was Duff Cooper's when he resigned from Neville Chamberlain's cabinet in protest against the Munich agreement. Unlike Anthony Eden's resignation speech at the beginning of the same year (1938), Duff Cooper's was entirely clear, as well as eloquent and devastating. He spoke for nearly three-quarters of an hour without notes, ending:

"I have ruined, perhaps, my political career. But that is a little matter: I have retained something which is to me of greater value — I can still walk about the world with my head erect."

Confidence debates have often

notes, whereas Churchill, after an early traumatic failure of memory in the House, was dependent on them.

Seventeen years later another Labour minister, also a Welshman, scored a similar parliamentary triumph. The spy George Blake had escaped from prison and the home secretary, Roy Jenkins, faced a motion of censure. He demolished the attack, which he describes himself in his memoirs, *A Life at the Centre*, as a "most welcome and even glorious relief". At the same time he notes the meretricious aspect of such forensic victories: "Blake had still escaped and was as far as ever from being recaptured. I had not become a better home secretary as a result of the debate."

Margaret Thatcher's most dangerous moment until she eventually lost the premiership was the Westland debate in 1986. She survived, but her survival was due less to any merits in her own performance than to the defects in Neil Kinnock's.

By far her best speech in a confidence debate was her last speech in the House of Commons as prime minister in 1990. Perhaps because she no longer had anything to lose — she had already resigned and was acting as caretaker — she put on a rumbustious show.

Prime ministers can usually hold their own in set-piece confrontations with the Opposition on general policy when they have commanding majorities behind them. But when party strengths are more evenly matched in the House of Commons, and party rancour is running high, a prime minister may have a very tough time. On one day in July 1911 Asquith was denied a hearing in the House of Commons. He stood for half an hour at the box while opposition MPs yelled at him.

Mr Major is unlikely to share that experience, though his position is far from enviable. He no longer has a big majority, and he leads a party that is split on the central issue of policy, as Gladstone's was on home rule. But he is better off than Gladstone, in that the opposition is equally split.

Indeed, the leader of the opposition is, in reality, his predecessor. But there again he is lucky, because she has made the capital mistake of removing herself from the House of Commons. If she were still an MP his position would be vastly more difficult.

As he looks back to great parliamentary jousts in the past, he should conclude that the key to success has always been courage. Those who have prevailed have not all been orators and they have not all had blameless records to defend. But they have all believed in themselves and spoken with an

decided the fate of governments. In May 1918 Lloyd George faced a deadly threat to his war leadership when General Sir Frederick Maurice wrote to the press to say that Parliament had been misled about the strength of the British Army in France before the Germans' spring offensive.

Choosing to treat Asquith's call for a select committee as a vote of censure, Lloyd George routed his opponents with a speech that was a triumph more of personality than of honest argument.

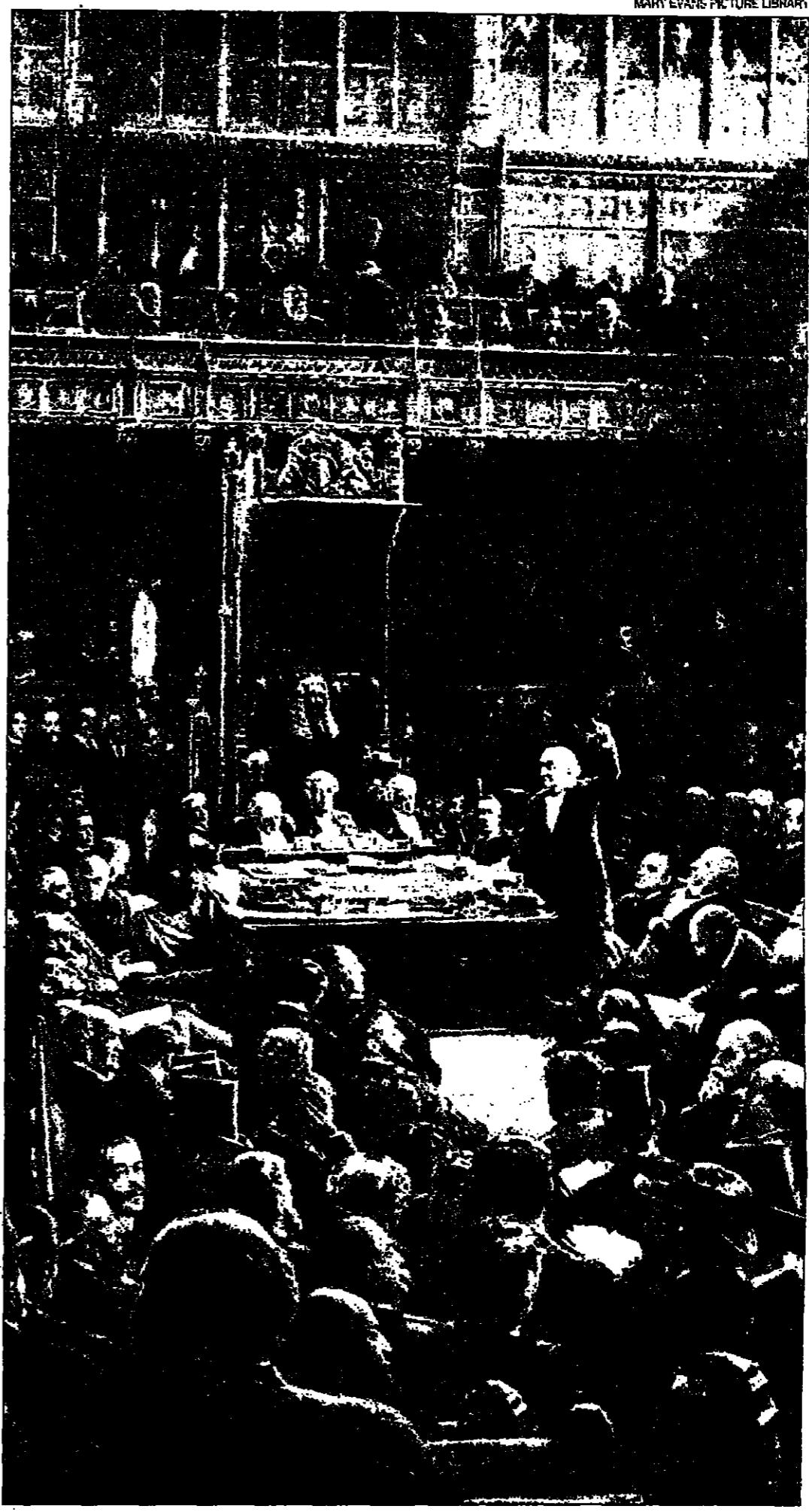
An even more fateful confidence debate followed the Norwegian campaign in May 1940. From this Chamberlain emerged with a majority, but one so reduced that he felt obliged to resign. At first he hoped to be able to form a more broadly based coalition, but Labour refused to serve under him. As a result, Winston Churchill became prime minister, though his succession was by no means inevitable.

In the debate he had to answer for the disastrous campaign in Norway, for which, indeed, his responsibility was substantial. But Lloyd George, in the last important speech of his career, said Churchill should not "allow himself to be converted into an air-raid shelter to prevent the splinters from hitting his colleagues". (This phrase has been echoed during the past week by Mr Major or his spokesman in connection with Norman Lamont.)

There was a notable confidence debate in September 1949, when the postwar Labour government was forced to devalue the pound. The star of the debate was Aneurin Bevan, who lambasted the Tories while skilfully exploiting the anti-Tory past of their leader, Churchill. Bevan was a magician with words, and he normally spoke without

authentic voice. Mr Major is no Lloyd George or Bevan. He is nearer to being a Baldwin, with the same reputation for decency and niceness, and the same admirable parliamentary manners.

Baldwin, however, was also capable of showing steel, and it is steel above all that Mr Major will have to show today. And is there any chance that he will speak from notes rather than from a written text, which is not really a speech at all?



The great Gladstone: for his 1886 home rule speech extra seats had to be provided in the House

Please hide your message after the beep

PRIVATE LIFE: John Diamond finds the ghost in the answering machine

I have discovered, I think, the technological equivalent of the gap behind the sofa cushions wherein a wandering hand can come across old half-crowns, phone numbers written on matchbooks of long bankrupt wine bars, gas bills that you swore blind to the man who came to cut you off had been paid, and fluff. It is the front end of the answering machine tape.

There are, by tradition, three great lies. One is that the cheque is in the post; the second that I rang but the phone was engaged and the third is that, I promise you, you don't want to read over your breakfast kipper. Technology has added to these three, though. Now we have lie number four: "But it went through my fax machine OK"; and number five: "I'm sorry we were cut off — the car must have been going under a bridge."

The most common of the technoramas, though, is the one that says that you phoned and left a message on the answering machine. And who can argue with it? Most non-technical lies — the train was late, the traffic jammed, the shop closed — are provably so if you have the time and effort to do the proving, but machines break down in arbitrary and discrete ways we cannot hope to understand. Answering machines and faxes and computers do go wrong and although we all understand Einstein's maxim about God not playing dice with the universe, and that when the machines break they normally stay broken, we also know that one errant garbled answering machine

message will suddenly pop up in a hundred good ones.

But like everyone I have used these lies. And equally I suppose that I've always assumed that when people have told me that they left messages on my machine which I've never received they were covering up for laziness or embarrassment or forgetfulness.

Until yesterday when I needed a tape to record an interview on and found I was fresh out of cassettes. The only cassettes around, in fact, was the one in my answering machine and so I whipped it out, put it in my tape recorder and rewound it. It went on fast-forwarding for minutes, which given that there should only have been a couple of minutes worth of messages on the tape was strange, and so I pressed the play button.

Well, just tell me about the path not travelled. One of the wackier scientific theories postulates that if the universe is infinitely large then it must contain an infinite number of parallel Earths in it, each with an infinite number of parallel John Diamonds, each of them taking the options that I have chosen not to take. At the further reaches of the

universe is a parallel John who is still teaching drama in a girl's school, a parallel John Diamond in cerise loon pants, a parallel John Diamond, I suppose, who came off his parallel motorcycle in 1972 and is lying six feet under

in some parallel grave.

Contained on this tape, then, was my parallel diary for the last six months or so. Buried behind the sofa cushions of my life were dozens of calls that I'd never heard. Presumably at some time, and when I was away from home for long enough for a good solid stock of messages to pile up, the machine had issued some sort of beep to which the tape subsequently returned each time I rewound it and behind which lay my parallel life. There was a job offer from a magazine that has since gone bust, some threatening calls from a reader to whom I'd made the mistake of replying on my own headed paper rather than that of *The Times*. A call pregnant with promise from a woman I went out with briefly and unsuccessfully a couple of years ago, some calls from various of those once-in-a-while friends whose turn it was. I'd

decided, to phone me, and too many etherial bits of sofa-cushion fluff from insurance salesmen and PR companies to count.

And all of them assumed, as I would have assumed, that when they'd consigned their message to the machine, it was as good as telling me face to face. I was immediately consumed by a desperate desire to phone them all up, insurance brokers and all, and say to them: "You know you called me six months ago and said how about a drink, and I never returned your call?" Well it seems that what happened was that... I needed them to know that it was nothing personal but that they had, by some technological fluke, intruded on the private life of a parallel John Diamond, an oafish boor of a man who didn't return his phone calls but who was nothing to do with me.

Except what would you think if you were one of those callers and I told you that? I could only imagine they would believe that my life had become suddenly transformed by some sadness that forced me to beg forgiveness from and establish contact with acquaintances who I had purposefully ignored for six months. It hasn't, I promise you. But if you did phone me sometime in March and I never got back to you, you know why. And if you didn't phone me I would suggest that you go now and take the tape cassette out of your own machine and run it through an ordinary recorder. Because technology means you never know who you might have been insulting.

SAFEST SAX IN TOWN!

RETURN TO THE
FORBIDDEN PLANET

By Bob Cattell

1990'S
OLIVIER AWARD
WINNER
**BEST
MUSICAL**

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LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: The new season opens with the world premiere of *Hidden Variables* by Colin Matthews, a work that takes an abstract look at the music of several contemporary masters. Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet* complete the programme conducted by Michael Tilson Thomas. Steve Isserlis is the cello soloist. Hall, Hall & Shorley, London EC2 071-438-28911, 7.30pm.

SIOBHAN DAVIES DANCE COMPANY: One of Britain's leading contemporary choreographers, Siobhan Davies presents the world premiere of two new works. The first is *White Bird Feathers*, using the music of Irish composer Gerald Barry, the second is *Revolutions*, from his opera, *The Intelligence House*, for two pianos and counter-tenor. The other new work, *Make-Meal*, performed on a vocal score based on the sounds and rhythms of Inuit game songs. Pigmy Paws, 100 New Bond Street, London W1C 071-227-5511, 7pm Sat., 8pm Sun.

GLYNDEBOURNE TOURING OPERA: Glyndebourne Festival Opera's sister company makes its London debut, 24 years after its foundation. The repertoire, including the first English-language tour of London opening, brings two revivals of GFO productions: Bellini's *Le nozze di Figaro* directed by Stephen McAllister who recently staged English Touring Opera's *Die Fledermaus* and John Cox's staging of the Stravinsky opera, *The Rake's Progress* (with Anne

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kari Knight

Dawson, Barry Banks, John Hall and Steven Page. Nikolai Lehmann's production of *Katya Kabanova* by Janáček (with Susan Bullock as Katya) completes the bill.

HALL ORCHESTRA: The talented young ensemble from the opera, *The Intelligence House*, for two pianos and counter-tenor. The other new work, *Make-Meal*, performed on a vocal score based on the sounds and rhythms of Inuit game songs. Pigmy Paws, 100 New Bond Street, London W1C 071-227-5511, 7pm Sat., 8pm Sun.

LENOCH ORCHESTRA: The talented young ensemble from the opera, *The Intelligence House*, for two pianos and counter-tenor. The other new work, *Make-Meal*, performed on a vocal score based on the sounds and rhythms of Inuit game songs. Pigmy Paws, 100 New Bond Street, London W1C 071-227-5511, 7pm Sat., 8pm Sun.

WHO SHALL BE TOMORROW? Joana Lumley plays an out-of-work actress during the rounds in Bernard Kops' two-hander. Westbury Lane, WC2 071-585-6121, Mon-Sat., 8pm, mat. Thurs., 3pm, Sat., 4pm, 10pm.

KENNY WHIPLER QUINTET: A regular fixture on the British jazz scene, the Canadian trumpeter and

saxophonist player has long been an underrated sideman to many established European groups. In more recent times he has emerged as a major jazz composer and improviser, able to work his influences, colour and improved settings. A fine player, well worth seeing.

Jazz Café, Parkway, London NW1 071-284-4358, 7pm.

DRAWN FROM LIFE: Martin Short's first one-man show consists of agreements, drawings and prints of London landmarks, plus drawings of National Trust restorations at Chedworth, Clee Abbey and Baddleshaw Range. The show marks the opening of a newly restored Sutton House.

Hackney, renovated by the Trust as an English country manor, also houses a 16th-century fireplace and also boasts a new gallery and concert hall.

Sutton House, 2 and 4 Hornsey High Street, London E9 081-986-2264, Gallery: Wed-Sun, 11.30am-5.30pm, last Sun. 4pm, 7pm.

LESTER LEWIS: *WHAT'S NEW?* The year's main Salzburg Festival exhibition is devoted to a minor but interesting artist with strong local connections. Gibson spent his last 20 years of his life living in Stapleford and running the Stapleford Art Fair. He died in 1989, aged 85. The Royal Albert Hall, 65 The Clore, Salisbury 0722-332151, Mon-Sat., 10am-Sun., 5pm, Sat., 2-5pm, until Dec 5.

THE RAKE'S PROGRESS: The King's Head, 65 The Clore, Salisbury 0722-332151, Mon-Sat., 10am-Sun., 5pm, Sat., 2-5pm, until Dec 5.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ HOUSE FULL, RETURNS ONLY

Some seats available

Seats at all prices

■ SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION: Stockard Channing as the rich New York socialite who falls in love can and John Goodman's play on human inter-dependence.

Comedy, Pantin Street, SW1 071-887-10451, Mon-Sat., 8pm, mats Wed., 3pm, Sat., 4pm, 8pm.

■ SOMETHING WHOLE WATCH: Olympia Dukakis' superbly moving *McCaughrean*.

Stephen Rea as Blunt hostages in Frank McGuinness' new play.

Vaucluse, The Strand, WC2 071-880-8800, Mon-Sat., 8pm, mats Wed., 3pm, Sat., 4pm, 8pm.

■ MURDER BY MISADVENTURE: Gerald Harper and William Gaunt play crime writers who fall out and murder each other: an off-the-top-of-the-head thriller.

Theatre Royal, Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 071-730-2554, Mon-Sat., 8pm, 10.30pm.

■ A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE: Philip Proctor's triumphant RSC production. John Cleese as a callous and domineering man's social masonry laced with wit.

Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 071-920-8800, Mon-Sat., 8pm, mats Wed., 3pm, Sat., 4pm, 8pm.

■ WOMEN LAUGHING: Michael Wall's subtly comic and poignant drama of husbands going crazy. First rate performances.

Theatre Royal, Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 071-730-2554, Mon-Sat., 8pm, 10.30pm.

■ THE OEDIPUS CYCLES: Six-hour production of the Sophocles' tragedies with an interval. *Oedipus Rex* and *Oedipus Tyrannus*. Interesting performances, notably by Gerald Murphy and John Shrapnel. Intriguing settings but curiously uninviting.

Phoenix, Old Vic, EC2 071-492-8851, Next performance, Oct 1.

■ PHILADELPHIA, HERE I COME!

Brian Friel's affectionate comedy of an Irish emigrant and his coming after ego. A renewal to be enjoyed.

Wyndham's, Covent Garden, WC2 071-922-1116, Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat., 8.30pm, mats Wed., 3pm, Sat., 4pm.

■ THE RISE AND FALL OF LITTLE VOICE: Tempting performance by Alison Steadman as the raucous siren in Jim Dearmond's play about dreams, sex and hormones. The Royal Exchange, National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 071-928-2252, Today, 2.30pm and 7.30pm, 150mins. Transfers to the Albery, Oct 10.

■ SHAKESPEARE COLLARS JONATHAN PRYCE: Jonathan Pryce in Sharmain Macdonald's disappointing new play, only sporadically absorbing. Albany, St Martin's Lane, WC2 071-867-1119, Mon-Sat., 8pm, Sun., 8.30pm, 120mins. Pamela Hodge takes over from October 5.

■ TICKET INFORMATION: Supplied by Society of West End Theatre

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Foul play in the CIA vs. IRA match

Cinema New Releases: Geoff Brown
on *Patriot Games*, *Swoon*, *Just Like a Woman*, *California Man*, *Secret Friends*, *My Father is Coming*

Who would have guessed that CIA headquarters boast open-plan offices where the words "State Terrorism" dangle from the ceiling like a supermarket sign announcing "Frozen Foods"? Well, *Patriot Games* (Empire, 15) spills the beans. And who would have guessed that an IRA cell could cross the CIA's path in America and summon vast firepower at the snap of a finger? Yet if must be so: we can see for ourselves, in Panavision and Technicolor.

Implausibilities, both major and minor, pile up perilously in this second foray into Tom Clancy's novels, following *The Hunt for Red October*. At first Alec Baldwin was set to return as the CIA analyst Jack Ryan; then he abandoned ship, leaving Harrison Ford to negotiate the boneheaded script. The direction is left to the Australian Philip Noyce, who begins in high spirits, but ends floundering with the characters' speedboats in the Paramount studio tank.

The game begins in London, where Ryan, on holiday, saves a leading politician (and royal cousin) from an IRA bomb, killing a perpetrator in the process. The response is immediate: the grateful Queen hands out a gong, and IRA activist Sean Bean plots extravagant revenge on Ryan, his wife and daughter.

The lunacy spirals as the story lurches from CIA headquarters to Belfast, a North African terrorist camp (the film is too circumspect to say Libya outright), and the sanctity of Ryan's Maryland home. Richard Harris's vaudeville turn as a Sinn Fein spokesman unglues the film further. So long as we stick with Ryan's plight as a hunted man, the film remains entertaining; but its topical pose and strong-arm tactics badly misfire. "You know nothing about terrorism," the CIA tell Ryan; the same goes for *Patriot Games*.

Harrison Ford's glowering demeanour serves him well enough in the early stages, but his skills become increasingly wasted as the film collapses. Among the rest of the unfortunate, Sean Bean cuts an icy figure as the IRA avenger, while James Fox (the royal politician) gives an excellent imitation of limp celery.

"You've just enjoyed the treat of shaking hands with a murderer," the privileged youth informs his chauffeur in Tom Kalin's riveting debut feature *Swoon* (Metro, 18).

This is no joke: we have just seen this 18-year-old Jewish student, one half of the infamous Leopold and Loeb, blithely kill a kidnapped boy in the car's back seat. Their motive: just a thrill, if you please.

Nathan Leopold Jr and Richard Loeb, moneyed, Jazz Age youths whose intellectual superiority put them above society's laws (so they thought), have fascinated writers and film-makers. Patrick Hamilton's play *Rope* led to Hitchcock's 1948 film adaptation; nine years later came *Compulsion*, from Meyer Levin's novel, with Orson Welles playing Clarence Darrow, the lawyer.

But those killingies were mainstream affairs. Kalin, an American video artist, goes a different route, and shows what the previous films whispered: the couple's homosexuality. The watchword, poached from advanced literary theory, is "deconstruction". Through stylised tableaux, archive footage and abundant courtroom quotations, Kalin aims to reveal the homophobia that swirled round the case in 1924: the perception was that gay desire meant violence.

The wonder is that a film so intellectual in design sits on the screen with such ease. Ellen Kuras's black-and-white photography puts a glossy surface on the avant-garde tactics; actors Daniel Schachter and Craig Chester suck us into their languorous world of obsessive love.



Witnesses to a terrorist outrage: Harrison Ford protects his wife (Anne Archer) and daughter (Thora Birch) in *Patriot Games*

The effect is severely unsettling: these handsome boys, so beautifully posed, are callous murderers. Kalin further goads the viewer by opening up questions without offering answers. Seductive and prickly at the same time, *Swoon* is a firecracker among the damp squibs of recent gay cinema.

In theory, *Just Like a Woman* (Odeon West End, 15) should be equally subversive. Here, after all, is Gerald, a handsome American merchant banker who engineers multimillion dollar deals by day and wears the frilliest underwear by night. If the scene were New York or San Francisco, imagine the camp excitement. But this is a British film: the transvestite lives in suburban London, and lodges, what is more, with Julie Walters. "You're like a bird of paradise" she coos, as Gerald becomes Geraldine: the lady, a lonely soul, recently divorced, has a chirpy comment for everything. No one can be camp in these surroundings, and the American

actor Adrian Pasdar, who looks awkward whatever he wears, scarcely tries.

The film's sensibility is further constrained by the cumbersome sub-plot who cares a fig about Gerald's Japanese deal and the machinations of his boss? Despite the prosaic script, director Christopher Monger displays genuine sympathy for his oddball characters, and never stoops to easy laughter. But his attempt at an opulent international sheen fails: the film remains poky, parochial, and its message is clear — no sex, please, we're British.

The message paraded in *California Man* (MGM Haymarket, PG) is no intelligence, please, we're American. This hamfisted comedy was originally *Encino Man*, but since no one here is supposed to have heard of the San Fernando Valley community where Michael Jackson resides, in came a dull new

stage as a middle-aged illustrator on the brink of madness, his mind fractured into darling memories of his uncertain wife (Gina Bellman), a red-hot neighbour (the admirable Frances Barber) and a murder he might have committed. Bates gives this dubious role the old Donald Wolfish punch, which only makes mamas worse. Overwrought and tedious, *Secret Friends* needs a psychotherapist, not a paying audience.

Monika Treut's *My Father is Coming* (Prince Charles, 18) finishes the week with a rush of fresh air. Drawing on her own position as a sexually liberated German filmmaker at large in America, Treut paints a tender, amusing portrait of a German girl in New York, whose visiting father soon finds his feet among porn queens, transsexuals and a fakir suspended from wires hooked onto his nipples. Treut's cinematic technique remains homey, but the film's animating spirit is deliciously generous and sweet.

THEATRE

Sketches from the bohemian life

Colquhoun and MacBryde Royal Court



Artists of a kind: MacBryde (Ken Stott, left) and Colquhoun (David O'Hara)

The names suggest some fiercely respectable Edinburgh lawyers, or maybe a firm of high-class bookmakers, long established at the posh end of George Street; but the truth is more slapdash and bohemian. Colquhoun and MacBryde were a couple of Glaswegian painters who made rather more of an impact on the pubs of wartime London than on its galleries. Wyndham Lewis admired them. George Barker gave them a house and made himself responsible for the bill of £1,249, 14 shillings and sixpence they managed to run up at his local. A historian of the art of the 1940s, or of Soho, or of British eccentricity, or even of homosexuality, might still find them of interest; but in each case they would probably end up as little more than a footnote.

Certainly, John Byrne has failed fully to justify the attention he gives them here. The problem is not their relative obscurity. With the right dramatist on creative song, any artist could doubtless prove a fascinating protagonist, down to the amateur watercolourist who paints churches for the village souvenir shop. But as Byrne treats them, Colquhoun and MacBryde lack significance as well

as stature. They just don't relate enough about art, the 1940s, Soho, eccentricity, homosexuality, or any of the other subjects that surface during the evening. At times their play comes across as a series of footnotes living above its natural means.

The opening scenes find

them first in London, then in Florence, all eager to outdo the old and establish themselves as the new; but it is soon clear that their ambition is not matched by their originality. Before long, they are pretty shamelessly trading on their Scottishness or, as they would prefer to put it, their Celtic lyricism.

That largely means dressing in ill-matching tartans and heavy brogues and, after a hundred rebuffs, going on hunger strike in Bond Street beneath a placard reading "We demand the same rights as our English brothers". This desperate ploy succeeds, too. At least for a time, their work finds buyers. But they come to seem quaint in the world of Jackson Pollock and it all slips away: patrons, self-delusion, money, home, even the affection that, despite the odd flirtation with others, has kept them together for two decades.

The story is basically a sad one and feelingly enough acted by the principal members of Lindsay Posner's cast. The truculent humour that Ken Stott brings to Robert MacBryde gradually disappears, to be replaced by aggression, paranoia, and finally a fussy, whey-faced self-pity. Meanwhile, David O'Hara's

Robert Colquhoun — the more talented if less demonstrative of the two Bobs — visibly tenses and hardens. But it is difficult to be moved. The depth of observation is not there. Nor, come to that, is the depth of concern.

There is of course no reason why Byrne should not have fun with his characters and their milieu. But this is the kind of play which there is an off-stage clatter — and who should stagger on but Dylan Thomas in a yellow suit and Harpo Marx haircut? He throbs out what sounds like a drunken slice of *Under Milk Wood* and throws up in a pair of beer, creating a cocktail which is then maliciously fed to a posturing George Barker. Outrageous characters everywhere! You can smell Byrne's *nostalgia de la boue* more strongly than Dylan's vomit, which thankfully does not carry across the footlights.

Altogether, this strikes me as a talent failure. The dialogue has plenty of vitality, but the characterisation seems skimpy, the action sketchy, the dramatic focus scattered. The author of *The Slab Boys* can do better — and will.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

An Evening with Garrison Keillor

the best selling author of *Lake Wobegon Days* in his European debut as singer/presenter/raconteur with Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

"simply the best night I've ever had in a concert hall since the county hog-jumping competition"

Lake Wobegon Sentinel

May 3 October 7.30pm

Royal Festival Hall 071 928 8800 tickets £25 - £55

All the furious pre-screening rumpus over Granada's two-hour drama-documentary *Hostages* (ITV, last night), including the public disowning of the programme by John McCarthy, Brian Keenan, Terry Waite and others, entirely missed the point. The focus of that furore was the programme's veracity, or lack of it, by far the more important questions raised by *Hostages* concerned imagination.

Nobody watching more than a few seconds of this action-packed thriller, performed by a star-studded cast, could have supposed it was attempting an accurate investigation into what actually happened, in Beirut and in the corridors of the Pentagon and the Foreign Office, between 1986 and 1991. Writer Bernard MacLaverty and director David Wheately must be credited with quite different intentions.

Their idea was more what Beethoven had in mind when he wrote his Fifth Symphony — celebration of the triumph of the human spirit over adversity, that sort of thing. Unfortunately, they thought it could be delivered in 90-second sound-bites.

When I said the most important questions raised here were about imagination, I should have been more specific: they concerned the imagination of time. The most shocking reminder of the suffering of those hostages was a simple number: that awful toll of days which grew from tens into hundreds and from hundreds past the thousand mark. Days which were not really days, unpunctuated by light and natural darkness, or by the seasons, days without rest, marked by deprivation and terrible anxiety. How could television deal with this, the true horror?

The answer was almost laughable. We began, in a screech of tyres and a flurry of sweaty men with Kalashnikovs, with the abduction of John McCarthy; the discomfort of his cell was dealt with in swift close-ups of cockroaches and glistening walls; and then, before you could say Brian Keenan, three months had passed and Jill Morrell was beginning her magnificent campaign.

Three months! What about the first three hours? I did not have a stop-watch, but I could swear no scene in the entire two hours lasted longer than two minutes. It began to look as though Michael Ignatieff's warnings about three-minute culture had been optimistic.

The pity of it was that an exceptionally fine cast had

TELEVISION REVIEW

Hostages to a short imagination

been assembled. For all McCarthy's disclaimers, I doubt whether any actor could have conveyed his combination of flippancy and courage better than Colin Firth: Ciaran Hinds relished the splendid resistance, wildness and intelligence of Brian Keenan; Harry Dean Stanton and Kathy

Bates contributed star performances as the anti-social Frank Reed and the morally unquenchable Peggy Say.

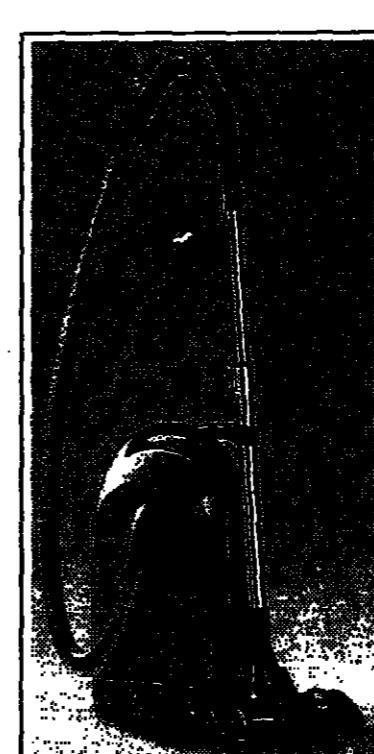
In the part of her brother, Terry Anderson, Jay O. Sanders was uncannily true to life; nothing stayed longer in the memory than his delivery of Anderson's un-self pitying

Christmas message to his family, friends and President followed by real footage of a smiling Reagan denying that the words were Anderson's. "When I had a script, I always read the lines they gave me," quipped Ronnie. "The own speech betrayed thee," as the girl said to St Peter.

That moment made the programme worth watching; but for those who desired insight into the hostages' condition, it was no substitute for Frank McGuinness's play *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*.

HARRY EYRES

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ARTS BRIEF

Reith lineup

THE BBC has announced the names of the Reith Lecturers for the next three years. Dr Edward Said, professor of English at Columbia University in New York, will give the lectures in June 1993, on the subject of the influence of intellectuals on public life. The writer and historian Marina Warner, best known for her books about the Virgin Mary and Joan of Arc, will speak in June 1994 about archetypal myths; and in 1995 the architect Sir Richard Rogers will lecture about the impact of environmentalism on architecture. Radio 4 and Radio 3 will broadcast the lectures.

Improvising

YOU probably thought Antonin Dvorak hailed from Bohemia's woods and mountains. Hollywood has other ideas. In *The New World*, a forthcoming film about the composer's American years and the creation of the "New World" Symphony, Dvorak will be played by the Puerto Rican Raul Julia. The director may also raise eyebrows if the film is a pet project of Ted Kotcheff, who gave the world the first Rambo adventure. First Blood.

Only chance

MATURE California rockers Toto are pressing ahead with shows to promote their new album, *Kingdom of Desire*, in spite of the recent death of drummer and founder member Jeff Porcaro. Veteran session players from Los Angeles, who have always maintained high musical and production values, even if the band's creative vision has tended towards the staid. Such mid-Eighties hits as "Africa" and "Rosanna" practically defined a strand of unfashionable melodic rock.

The current lineup features the two surviving Porcaro brothers Steve and Mike, together with founder members David Paich and Steve Lukather. The late Jeff Porcaro is replaced by Brian Simon Phillips for the group's only British dates at the Apollo, Manchester (061-273 3775) on Saturday and Brixton Academy (071-326 1022) on Sunday.

4 BOOKS

LIFE & TIMES THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 24 1992

A philosopher and his mistress: Bertrand Russell and Lady Ottoline Morrell, two eminent Edwardians, both at the nerve-centre of English culture

Bold logician, cold comforter

Peter Ackroyd

BERTRAND RUSSELL
By Caroline Moorehead
Sinclair-Stevenson, £20

He dined with Gladstone, and corresponded with Khrushchev. John Stuart Mill was his godfather, and Ludwig Wittgenstein was his pupil. He supported the Boer War, but opposed the Vietnam War. His was a long life. It is characteristic of a man who found no difficulty in severing ties, whether private or public, that he always looked towards the indefinite future rather than the often messy past.

In this sympathetic but often acerbic biography, Caroline Moorehead describes him as "perhaps the last public sage", although it might be more appropriate to call him the last great Whig. Having effortlessly acquired the authoritarian liberalism of his grandparents and parents, he brought with him into the 20th century all the hauteur and conviction of that dead English civilisation.

He was from the beginning a rather well-defined young man, clever and earnest but with the disadvantages that sometimes accompany those virtues — he suffered from a certain humourlessness, and a kind of fevered detachment from what he called "the mass of human creatures". But perhaps that had something to do with his mathematical training: he always knew how to manipulate round numbers. Certainly he found it difficult to sympathise with any one creature in particular, and Moorehead reveals the calculated coldness with which he treated his first wife. Other wives followed, together with other cruelties: he seemed to slough them off, as a snake sheds a skin before slithering away.

He began work with Whitehead on *Principia Mathematica* in 1902, when he was 30. Despite moving among apparently cultivated or artistic people, he was always more at home with forms and propositions. It is not always quite so clear that Moorehead shares the same enthusiasm and her descriptions of logic, symbolic or otherwise, are not the most convincing in this biography. But the discomfiture of her prose at these moments



Bertrand Russell, a sketch by Augustus John

members of Bloomsbury, seem more solid in comparison. But if he was something of a spectre, he resembles one who is compelled to feed off the living. In his friendships with Wittgenstein, Conrad, and with Lawrence, there is a sense in which he needed the passion and intensity of these extraordinary men in order to shake himself into life.

This is an entertaining biography, fluently written and with more than enough humour to compensate for Bertrand Russell's high-mindedness. But if it is fluent it is also just, and it is hard not to see its subject as a very cold human being

indeed. He wrote to his first wife, Alys: "Intellect is a great safeguard, because it makes one's passions more abstract and less ephemeral." No doubt that is also why he became such a notorious philanderer; his was a case of sex without love or, in other words, sex with only abstract passion. His first affair was with Lady Ottoline Morrell, of all people. Moorehead is good on all the subsequent couplings, not least because she has some sympathy for the victims.

It was the first world war which brought him alive. In this period, when he campaigned against the conflict at much risk to himself and his career, he demonstrated genuine courage. He was a necessary figure because he was entirely happy working in a public context, during periods when other men and women were beset by doubts and anxieties of a more individual nature. Of course he lacked anything like a private conscience but, as a result, he was inexorable both in his doctrines and in his behaviour. He was like the salamander who can only live in fire.

So, by the end of the first world war, he was no longer a don or even simply a philosopher: he had become a public figure urgently addressing what he thought was a new age. He wrote pamphlets and journalism, he travelled extensively, he conducted potted books concerned with the "new order", socialism and peace. In the 1920s he and his new wife, Dora,

became a political Punch and Judy act, hitting out at everyone in sight before turning on each other.

By the time of the second world war he told one friend that he felt "like a strayed ghost from a dead world", and yet this Whig aristocrat spent the rest of his life at the centre of public attention. He thrived on controversy; he was never affected by criticism because he had little sense of any personal self, and there are times when he seems no more than an emptiness waiting to be filled by sex or publicity. Lady Ottoline was "at home" every Thursday in London. During the first world war, Garsington was a refuge for pacifists,



Lady Ottoline Morrell: her desperate need to be liked made her horribly vulnerable; she described herself as "a magnet for egotists"

Lady Chatterley's lovers

Victoria Glendinning

OTTOLINE MORRELL
Life on the Grand Scale
By Miranda Seymour
Hodder & Stoughton, £25

who included Aldous Huxley and Mark Gertler. She was comfortably off, but nowhere near as rich as her protégés imagined she was.

Born in 1873, she was pretty grand — a half-sister of the Duke of Portland, with a dozen other titles roosting in her family tree. As a shy and religious 29-year-old she married handsome, weak Philip Morrell, a solicitor's son, and proceeded to reinvent both him and herself. She encouraged Philip to enter Parliament, and though the marriage was sexually null — they had one daughter, dreadfully neglected by Lady Ottoline — she was never less than loyal. She sought her own fulfillment variously as hostess, spiritual mentor, muse, confidante, partner, and lover.

She was not principally interested in sex, but in intense spiritual and emotional affinities. Her long affair with Bertrand Russell, from whom 1,500 letters to her have survived, is the centrepiece of this book. She was also the mistress of Henry Lamb and Augustus John, had a giggly intimacy with Lytton

Strachey, and deep involvements with Roger Fry, D. H. Lawrence and Siegfried Sassoon, among others. Many of her friendships ended in disillusion.

Miranda Seymour praises her courage and inspiration and believes her to have been a "great" woman. A previous biography by Sandra Johnson Darroch was published in 1976. The picture is not greatly changed by Seymour, but she has the advantage of additional material. Lady Ottoline's journals were discovered in an attic after the death of her daughter Julian in 1989. They revealed among much else that Lady O, in her early forties, had a brief and eccentric affair with a young stonemason who was working at Garsington. Seymour makes a good case for believing that the story of this relationship, repeated down the gossip grapevine, provided the idea for D. H. Lawrence's *Lady Chatterley's Lover*.

Seymour has also been able to say more about Philip Morrell's infidelities, which began three years after the marriage. He even made unsuccessful bids to seduce Virginia Woolf. In 1917 he confessed to Lady Ottoline, while she lay in bed — she had chronic illness — that he currently had two mistresses, both pregnant. One was his secretary and the other Lady O's personal maid. Both women gave birth to a son that summer. Lady O

was generous, and paid up to support the maid — at a time when she was also paying for Philip's suits and his club bills.

Philip had also series of mental breakdowns. Like his infidelities, these were concealed from the world. But in her unhappiness, Ottoline took to painting her face more luridly, dressing in brighter and tackier finery, and looked as grotesque as she felt. The cruellest and funniest Bloomsbury comments about her date from this time. She confided her misery only in her diary. It did not do to show that one was unhappy, she wrote. "People don't like one."

Her desperate need to be liked, her need for "simple love" as she put it, made her horribly vulnerable. The writers and artists she entertained so generously and with whom she enjoyed such intimate talks flattered her to her face and drew real sustenance from her interest and support. But they also mythologised her as an "animistic public monument" (Osbert Sitwell) and mocked her behind her back.

If there is a moral in this story it is that it just does not have to be great a reverence for creative artists, as opposed to their art. Lady Ottoline, though bitterly hurt, never fought back. She bit on the bullet and carried on. While she may not have been a "great" woman, she was certainly a gallant one.

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First prize G. Chater, Maidstone, Kent; P. Holmes, London; A.N. Corks, Orpington, Kent; D. Warkdale, Stoke-on-Trent; E. Baxter, Clapham, Bedfordshire; A. Payne, Enfield, Middlesex.

Neon lights

LAS VEGAS calls itself "the entertainment capital of the world". You should arrive at night when the lights of the hotels and casinos along the Strip flame up into the desert sky. Some visitors are happy just to stroll along the Strip at night, watching the flashing neon signs, the illuminated cascades and the passers-by. But there is big money to be won in Las Vegas as well.

It was originally a Mormon settlement. It started its new life as a gambling town in 1931, when work began on the Hoover Dam, and has boomed since the War. The

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casinos offer roulette, crap and poker day and night, and there are gleaming forests of slot-machines all over town.

Big-name entertainers are found in the hotels on the Strip and downtown at the Golden Nugget. Another feature of Las Vegas is its chapels, where you can get married at any time of day.

Yet another threat comes from the heat, especially in summer. 150 miles out of Las Vegas is Death Valley, one of the hottest places in America. It is not quite so hot in Las Vegas; nevertheless it is best to go there in spring or autumn. Other places to visit are the Hoover Dam across the Colorado river, and the Valley of Fire, where you can see ancient Indian rock carvings in the heart of the desert.

TUESDAY'S WINNERS

First prize G. Chater, Maidstone, Kent; P. Holmes, London; A.N. Corks, Orpington, Kent; D. Warkdale, Stoke-on-Trent; E. Baxter, Clapham, Bedfordshire; A. Payne, Enfield, Middlesex.

TOKEN 10

UNITED AIRLINES

Prostitute of tongues

Jim McCue

THE OXFORD COMPANION TO THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
Edited by Tom McArthur
OUP, £25

It will overcome. In Quebec it is an offence to display an English sign in the street, and the language police insist that a hamburger must be called a "hamburger". As a result, 20,000 people a year are leaving the province. English, in all its unruly diversity, is probably Britain's greatest asset. The world will come to us. Instead of seizing this inestimable advantage, we declared themes of this book: "English is now widely used for scholarly publishing in The Netherlands"; "creole in Hawaii and Jamaica is moving towards standard English"; the last Manx-speaker died in 1974; "the official language of EFTA is English, though none of the members is anglophone"; English is the leading second language of the Chinese and Japanese; West German pop songs average 56 English words per tune (more, perhaps, than British pop songs). Our language and the (American) culture it represents are so common that its words are commonly used, without reference to sense, or ornamentation. "Let's sport violent all day long," a Japanese T-shirt may say.

There is fierce resistance to English, but economic necessity demands it. Standardisation can be a great thing, but it is often a curse. Universal intelligibility would be a boon, but English might become shoddy along the way. The argot of CNN is not encouraging: reporters for this first global television network tend to sound like Japanese T-shirts.

This excellent guide to the history, geography and contours of English is cautious about classifying usage in terms of correctness (the caution itself being politically correct). Yet it adapts James Murray's century-old radical diagram from the OED. This envisages a core of words and usage, from which jargons, dialects, slang and so forth diverge, the edges of the language being indeterminate.

A user of plain English (see BBC, Oxford, King's English, Received Pronunciation *passim*) is able to communicate more fully and be understood more widely than users of more peripheral forms. The standard dialect is now "the only one that can be used in discussing such matters as philosophy, economics, and literature". In this sense, core English is better.

Tom McArthur has succeeded magnificently in setting the bounds of coverage. Comprehensive yet focused, the *Companion* immediately establishes itself as a necessary book. As well as obvious entries such as novel, euphemism and Esperanto, it lists notable publishers, the five canons of rhetoric, the protocols of plant naming and the principles of translation used for the Authorised Version of the Bible. The short essay on how Shakespeare's language differed from ours is a model exposition. There is fascinating material, too, on information theory (why sloppy writing seems easy to read), and on the hypothetical Indo-European language (a single root lies behind the words pole, palisade, travel, page and propaganda).

Sources range from Beowulf to Bondi Beach graffiti. And among the individuals marshalled are Barry Humphries, Dr Seuss and Billy Connolly. Dan Quayle runs himself under "Bafflegab", and Ronald Reagan is saluted for revoking an executive order on the use of plain English. Earning its shelf-space beside the *Oxford Companion to Literature*, this book gives us English at large at last. What did we do without it?

Scotch fantasia

Tom Adair

POOR THINGS
By Alasdair Gray
Bloomsbury, £14.99

subtle use of electrical stimulants", thanks to Baxter, a biological-alchemist genius, and features his longing for and marriage to "beautiful, full-bodied" innocent Bella, one of the novel's intended mysteries. Bella, escaping the cruelty of her first husband, General Sir Aubrey de la Pole Blessington, has fled herself, pregnant and boozily into the Clyde, and "by

Bitter Wisdom" is the tag he gives to a chapter cutting the feet from Victorian values

Kinds of People (there are three); Unemployment (breeds "a strong police force"); World Improvers (chiefly socialists, pacifists, anarchists and Bella; and Freedom).

It is remnant-polemic, but at least it is lively. You cannot say that for Gray's "Notes Critical and Historical", 30 odd pages as an endpiece for footnotes fetishists. The festive seriousness, élan, and sureness of touch marking Gray at his best (*Lanark*, *Kelvin Walker* and *1982 Janine*) give way to a tentative failure to engage. Bella's flurry of well-aimed arrows (the book's clearest voice) take the attention, but even then a dimension is missing, the prose equivalent of charisma. What we have is Gray on grey.



Phyllis James: escaping the confines of the detective story

Atoning for the sins of their fathers

There are several writers who, at some stage in their careers, have tried to escape the confines of the genre in which they have made their name. Henry James wrote plays, Graham Greene a book for children, John Fowles a volume of aphorisms, Kingsley Amis a spy story. John Le Carré a romantic novel. Some have done it to make money, others to gain gravitas: the writers of high-class thrillers in particular have been known to complain that a form of cultural snobbery deprives them of the literary reputation they deserve.

Now one of our leading writers of detective stories, P.D. James, has written a serious novel whose opening sentence merits a place in the textbooks of creative writing. "Early this morning, 1 January 2021, three minutes after midnight, the last human being to be born on earth was killed in a pub brawl in a suburb of Buenos Aires, aged twenty-five years two months and twelve days". This is a story set in a future where women have ceased to conceive. The population is ageing and shrinking: essential services are collapsing; only a firm dictatorship prevents the country from falling apart. Frantic research has failed to discover how it

happened that no more babies were born after Year Omega, 1995.

Earlier novels of this kind, such as Polly Toynbee's *Leftovers*, have assumed that the demise of the human race would come after a nuclear holocaust. That now seems less likely. The premise behind *The Children of Men*, however, has disturbing plausibility: an article in a recent issue of the *British Medical Journal* reports that human sperm counts have halved in the past 50 years. The scientists blame chemical pollution: James's hero, Theodore Faron, however, ascribes the universal sterility of the 21st century to the attitudes prevalent in the 1990s:

"Pornography and sexual violence on film, on television, in books, in life, had increased and became more explicit but less and less in the West we made love and bred children. It seemed at the time a welcome development in a world grossly polluted by over-population. As a historian I see it as the beginning of the end."

Faron is an Oxford don — "historian of the Victorian age, divorced, childless, solitary" — and on his own admission, a cold and egotistical man, haunted by the failure of his marriage and the death of his only child. This aspect

Piers Paul Read

THE CHILDREN OF MEN
By P.D. James
Faber, £14.99

of his character is convincing: he condemns himself as in society the separation of sex from love. In no area of human experience are human beings more convinced that something better can be had if only they persevere. "After Year Omega, it has got worse. Sex totally divorced from procreation has become almost meaninglessly acrobatic. Women complain increasingly of what they describe as painful orgasms: the spasm achieved but not the pleasure."

Faron is also the cousin and childhood friend of Xan Lyppiatt, the dictator and Warden of England. At some time in the past he has been his advisor, but resigned in disgust at some of the measures taken by Lyppiatt's Council to deal with the emergency — compulsory gynaecological inspection of women and sperm counts in men, and a form of mass euthanasia called the Quieus. Once voluntary, now surreptitiously enforced by a

Gestapo-like State Security Police and an elite force, the Grenadiers.

Because of his connection with Lyppiatt, Faron is approached by a small group of dissidents, one of them a young woman with a withered arm called Julian (a name compounded by the registrar from Julie Ann). They ask him to protest to his cousin about various abuses — the condition of convicts transported to the Isle of Man, the treatment of immigrants known as Sojourners, and the Quieus. Faron undertakes the mission, knowing it will fail; but he subsequently falls in love with Julian and becomes involved in the group's resistance to his cousin's regime.

James writes exceptionally well — her prose is efficient and precise. This suits those passages which are presented as Faron's journal: he is, after all, a fussy old don. But it hardly changes when the narrative alters to the third person and, as the story proceeds, the precision becomes pedantic. Every action, however banal, is described in meticulous detail:

"There were four mugs hanging on a stand. He took two and found three plates from a cupboard above the sink. From a drawer he took a sharp paring knife, a carving knife, three sets of table knives, forks and

spoons, and put a box of matches in his pocket."

Nor are the secondary characters convincing. The villains are only notionally nasty: evil is depicted through gruesome killings, not in a character's cast of mind. The young priest, Luke, who is Julian's lover, and the heroines, Julian and Miriam, are mealy-mouthed and too good to be true. There is no relief from the deadly earnestness with which the author treats her gloomy subject.

There are also times when it seems as if James has drawn more on the past than the future. The Warden, Xan Lyppiatt, is the kind of public-school fascist envisaged by Harold Nicholson in his diary, wearing grey flannels and a white shirt; and the last part of the novel, when the dissidents run to cover in the country, reads like a passage from *Swallows and Amazons*. This may be intentional: James probably knows the kind of civil servants who would govern us in an emergency better than most of her readers; and the naivety of her heroines is undoubtedly part of the message she wishes to convey about the redemption of humanity through innocence and faith. The novel closes with the agnostic Faron making the sign of the cross.

Nemesis strikes Unter den Linden

Norman Stone on a new study of the last days of the Nazi capital, and why Harris was wrong

over the proceeds. Since the authors (unobtrusively) know German and Russian, their books are a great deal more than pot-boilers, and though they do not go in for heavy historical analysis, they carry out the historian's primary job, description and narrative, excellently.

They show in this book how the Berliners responded to a bombing that demanded even more than the

THE FALL OF BERLIN
By Anthony Read and David Fisher
Hutchinson, £18.99

Germans' own bombing of London had done. The emergency services worked as best they could, with women volunteers on hand to bring out the ersatz coffee and biscuits, and with the ordinary people putting up with extremes of penury and discomfort. The greatest oddity was that the war economy went on working — in fact, producing more, at any rate until Allied bombing was precise enough to destroy the transport system and the fuel dumps. British (and other) advocates of all-out bombing of civilians in cities had not expected this to happen; in fact Bomber Command went on advocating the more or less indiscriminate bombing of cities even when its limitations became clear. This book shows how greater and greater ingenuity went into the bombing campaign — and, on both sides, greater and greater courage.

This book follows others, including a good one on the workings of the Nazi-Soviet Pact, when Hitler and Stalin divided eastern Europe between them and then quarrelled

What effect did it really have? Here, argument still goes on. On the whole, British opinion turned against it, as the facts came out — that the investment of labour and raw materials in bombers had cost the British war economy more than it damaged the Germans; quite apart from the dreadful cruelty involved in killing women and children. On the other hand, Albert Speer, Hitler's armaments minister, once told me a different story: that the bombing offensive pinned down so many German aircraft in defence that the war on the Eastern Front was lost, for want of air cover.

I remain, myself, agnostic. However, it was a horrible business, and though nobody would doubt the bravery of the bomber crews as they lumbered vulnerably through the flak, I am not sure that the man who led it, as distinct from the men who lived through it, really deserves the kind of be-stated commemoration that we reserve for our great generals.

The Queen Mother unveiled a statue, a month or two ago, to Air Marshal "Bomber" Harris, at the top of The Strand. Harris is a controversial figure — to some a hero, and to others, one of those old brutes whom the British military machine throws up from time to time. He bombed German cities into moonscapes during the war; film and photographs are his enduring monument; did he need another one, with the Queen Mother presiding? The outcome was interesting. For, a few days after the old lady had acted, the tabloids in London began a lengthy muckraking of the lives of her children and grandchildren. Were the toes of "Fergie", "Squidgy" and the rest not something of a descant upon the theme: God is not mocked. It is a line which British critics of the Harris statue might bear in mind when Germans reproach them with the taste and timing of the whole affair. *Gott wird nicht versprechen*.

Dropping the desert pilot

Henry Stanhope

GLUBB PASHA
By Trevor Royle
Little, Brown, £20



Glubb: transformed the Arab Legion into a modern army

Like Trevor Royle, I too remember the shock waves which swept through Britain on March 1 1956, when King Hussein of Jordan sacked General (later Sir) John Glubb, the distinguished commander of his Arab Legion. It was not just his dismissal but the manner of it: like that of a "pilfering house-servant" as our ambassador in Amman stiffly described it. Yet Glubb's destiny as a Middle Eastern star was forged by chance.

The son of Major-General Sir Frederic Glubb, Royal Engineers (RE), young Jack won a scholarship to Cheltenham College, then rivalled Wellington as a seed-bed for army officers, and followed in his father's footsteps as a sapper. He seems to have been less shell-shocked by the first world war than by the armistice. "Anything that happens to me after this can only be an anti-climax," he wrote grimly in 1919. So when the army asked for volunteers to help pacify rebel tribes in Mesopotamia, the bored young subaltern joined the queue.

Two things happened in the next five years to change his life. First, he fell in love with the desert and its people, confessing that he felt more at home in a tent full of nomads whose lack of scruples matched their table manners, than he did in the RE Officers' Mess at Chatham.

Secondly, he displayed a rare aptitude for his job. Charged with protecting rural shepherds from Ikhwan tribesmen whose raids were terrorising the border region, he founded the small Southern Desert Camel Corps and successfully instructed the locals in self-defence. When the RE finally ordered his return, Captain Glubb, now happy as a sand-boy, resigned

Arab officers conservatively sticking to his fellow Brits. Hussein was also unhappy with Glubb's strategy of mobile defence.

But other reasons also lay behind his demise. The Arab world was in turmoil at the time. Nationalist propaganda, largely inspired by Nasser's Egypt, had targeted Glubb as a symbol of British imperialism. Nor did the British press's habit of dubbing him the "uncrowned king of Jordan" greatly endear him to the crowned one.

As a servant of Hussein's grandfather King Abdullah, Glubb was seen as a relic of the past, out-dated and out of place in modern Amman.

To some extent this was true. Glubb's report had been with the Bedouin of the desert, not the rising, urban, Arab middle class. It is equally true that Glubb was in his 50th year, by which age most generals in Britain have retired. Even so, his peremptory dethroning (along with that of most of the other British officers) seemed a mortifying symbol of his country's decline.

What should his country make of him four decades on? Comparisons with T.E. Lawrence are inevitable. Both men cared passionately for the desert and its inhabitants and were to extol them in enviable prose. But most of those who knew them both thought Glubb the greater man.

This latest biography, six years after his death, does Glubb full justice. Objective, readable and well-researched, it not only explains a complex man but makes sense of Glubb's recent handling of his beloved legion. For one thing Glubb had been slow in advancing

Brian Keenan's *An Evil Cradling* is a masterful chronicle of courage and resourcefulness. Keenan, subjected to brutal and dehumanising treatment, succeeds in overcoming his ordeal through sheer force of will, stubbornness and, occasionally, humour. His account of beatings and deprivation at the hands of his tormentors, as well as his continuous fight against self-pity and mental collapse, could make a depressing narrative, were it not for his determination to survive.

Early in his captivity Keenan stages a one-man hunger strike and, after a stand-off with his captors lasting several days, wins the concessions he wanted. When he is moved into a makeshift prison with other hostages, whom he is barred from communicating with, he ingeniously devises a clandestine postal system for daily correspondence scrawled on the back of cigarette packets.

Much of the book is taken up with his relationship with the British journalist John McCarthy, with whom he shared several cells in locations across the country from Beirut to south Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley. The two men made use of the few resources at their disposal to make their incarceration bearable.

Aside from the details of hostage life, *An Evil Cradling* also helps expose the myth that Lebanon's hostage takers were a collection of disparate shadowy groups acting on their own. The kidnappers in this account were well organised and appeared to work as a single unit under one command, probably by the Iranian government. During his confinement Keenan was held at one time or another with three Americans, at least one Frenchman and one Korean, as well as McCarthy and Terry Waite. He was moved no less than 17

Captives on their captors
Richard Beeston

AN EVIL CRADLING
By Brian Keenan
Hutchinson, £16.99
TORNADO DOWN
By RAF Flight Lieutenant John Peters and John Nichol
Michael Joseph, £15.99

times to different locations across the country, some of them large multi-storey prisons presumably controlled by Hezbollah, the pro-Iranian Shia Muslim group.

The monotony of life in captivity makes prison journals a particularly difficult genre of narrative to master. But the wit and imagination which helped Keenan to survive his incarceration also uses to bring alive his story.

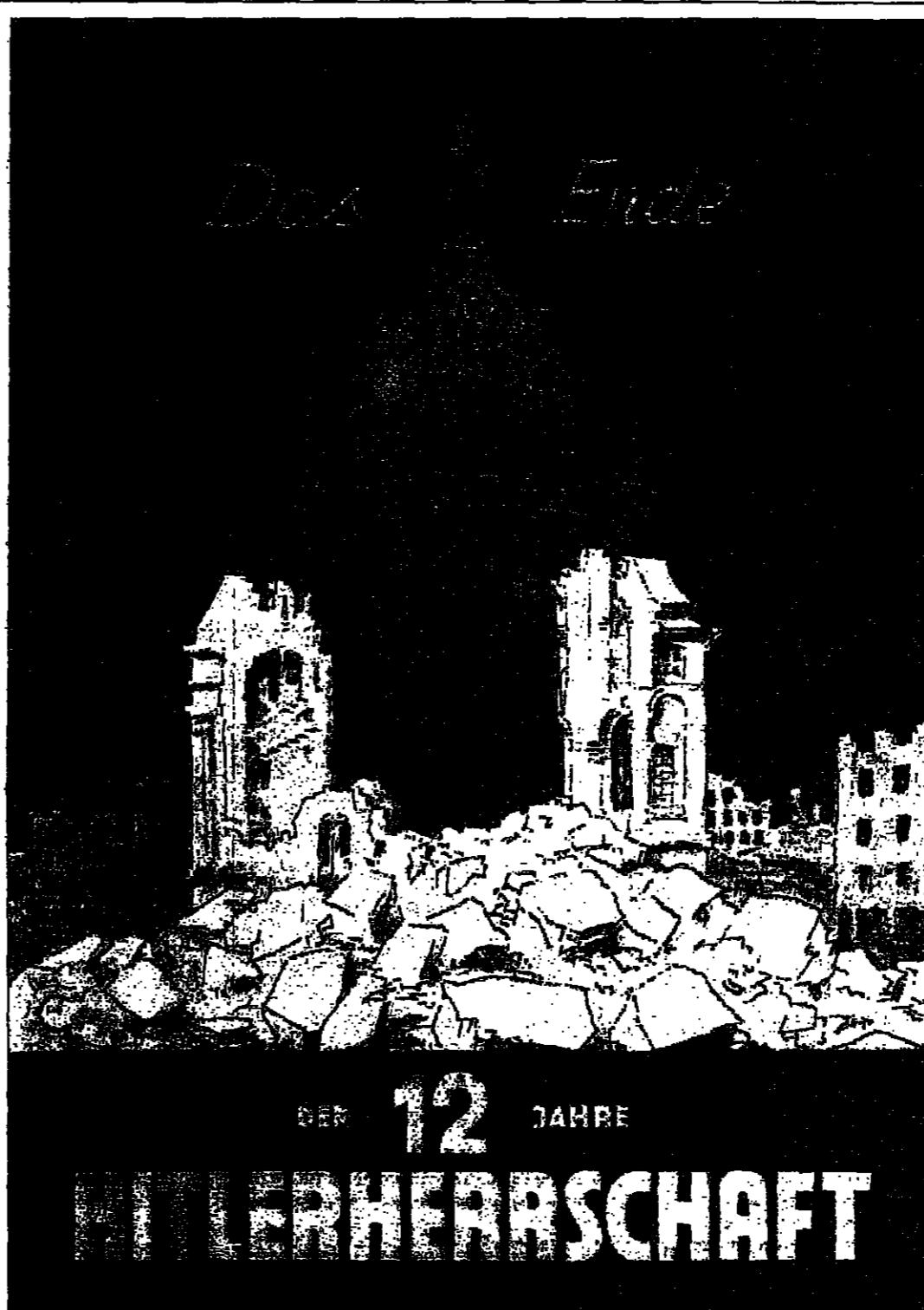
The same cannot be said for *Tornado Down*, however, the exciting but clumsy written account of a captured crew of an RAF Tornado shot down over Iraq on the first day of the Gulf War during a bombing run on an Iraqi airfield near Kuwait. Although the book provides good technical detail about the workings of modern air warfare and an insight into the sadistic regime of Saddam Hussein, the most striking feature of the account by the pilot, John Peters, and his navigator, John Nichol, is the catalogue of blunders leading up to their capture by the Iraqis.

When the possibility is first raised that XV Squadron based in Germany might go to war, the pilots are forced to use photocopied maps from *The Times Atlas* because there are no charts available, and to read newspaper clippings about the Iraqi military because there is no intelligence brief. As they prepared for their first bombing mission of the war, launched in daylight even though their aircraft are designed to attack at night, their Tornado refuses to start and they are forced to change planes. During the attack itself, the bombs do not work, either through technical malfunction or human error, and they are hit twice by primitive anti-aircraft fire crippling the £15 million jet and forcing the men to eject.

Once they land on enemy territory they discover that to get at their locator beacons to be rescued they must first inflate Dayglo orange lifejackets. To get them survival packets they are forced to inflate bright orange dinghies, which in the desert of Iraq was "as unnoticeable as a pack of baboons Christmas shopping on Oxford Street".

Even the Iraqi interrogators are incompetent. After torturing the airmen and forcing them to talk, they ask the most basic questions about the Tornado, to which the answers were available in any newspaper article. They then decide to force the crewmen to appear on television in a publicity exercise which backfires when it becomes clear the men have been tortured. Fortunately the airmen, along with other coalition POWs, were released, otherwise unharmed, after the war. The Ministry of Defence and the RAF would do well to read *Tornado Down* before committing their warplanes to combat again.

Richard Beeston is correspondent for *The Times* in Jerusalem

The end of 12 years of Hitler-rule: poster printed in the Soviet zone of Germany, November 1945, showing Dresden's ruined Frauenkirche. From *Persuasive Images: Posters of War and Revolution*, edited by Peter Paret, Beth Irwin Lewis and Paul Paret, Princeton University Press, £20

Hole in Europe's heart

George Brock

EUROPE
The Crunch
By William Cash
Duckworth, £4.99 pbk

William Cash's 60-page philippic is almost past its sell-by date, even as it hits the bookstands. Cash blows steamy indignation at the text of the Maastricht treaty just as the governments he derides are reaching the conclusion that the treaty's recipes for political and monetary union will have to be rewritten — or at least reinterpreted.

The distinction is a crucial one: the autumn's political battle will be over whether changes to the treaty will be cosmetic or real. Cash has anticipated this shift and spells out his own prescriptions for the drastic action which John Major should take at the Edinburgh summit at the end of the year. Since Maastricht "consolidated the gravitational pull towards federalism", Cash counsels Major to throw the treaty into the dustbin of history.

How the prime minister should accomplish a switch from his proclamation last December that the treaty is a triumph to destroying the entire edifice of European Union is not made adequately clear. Cash assumes that Britain can stay in the EC and control its development. His otherworldliness reaches its climax in his advice to the government on how to deal with the EC's ambitions to run a more coherent foreign policy. "In 1900, when Britain was the world's undisputed superpower, the staff of the foreign service in London consisted of 40 people. Perhaps the past has something to teach us in this respect." Cash is nothing if not a militant for nostalgia.

Trained as a lawyer, Cash is much more practical on the treaty's small print. Compare Cash with Douglas Hurd. Subsidarity, says Cash, is part of the problem, not the solution". Douglas Hurd waited to the House of Commons this summer about subsidiarity "applying to areas of parallel competence... requiring all activity... including all activity within the exclusive Community competence... to be governed by the necessity test."

Gobbledygook often signals evasion. This is a coyness about the nearest thing to a reply to a Cash issued by the government. It bears the unhappy title UK presidency Community and has been distributed to MPs but not, so far as I know, to the general public. The government roundly asserts that Maastricht-style subsidiarity will be legally sound and enforceable.

The problem with EC treaties is that they are unpredictable experiments. Neither Cash nor Hurd can tell what will happen if Maastricht comes into force. Hurd sounds unsure of himself when he asserts that Maastricht swings the EC towards desirable decentralisation. But Cash has no alternative likely to command support elsewhere in Europe. Both arguments bob like corks on the tide of events.

• The Maastricht Treaty in Plain English is published by the IPSET Education Unit, price £2.50 incl p&p, available from the IPSET Education Unit, Waringham Park School, Chelmsford, Essex CM6 9PB.

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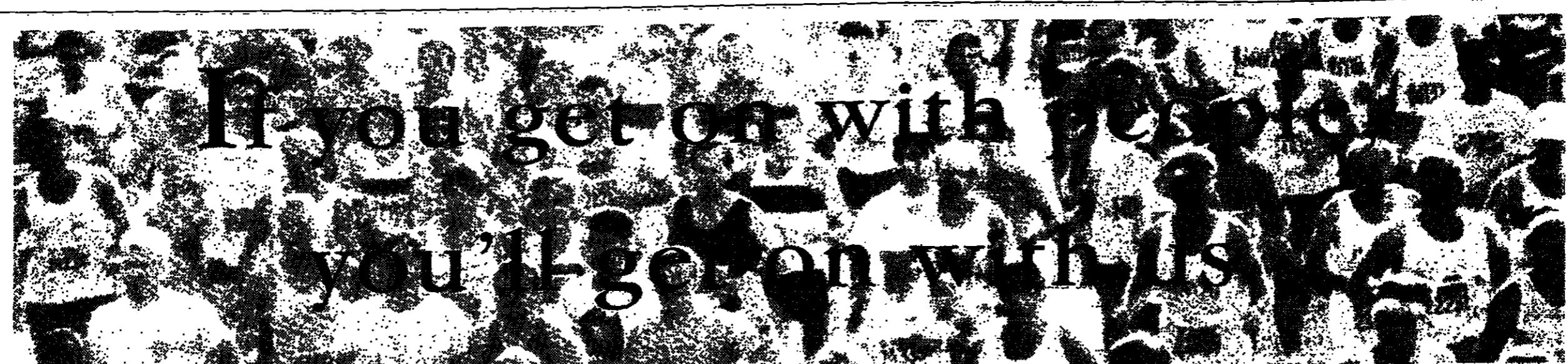
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8 APPOINTMENTS

Whether or not you see redundancy coming, there are ways of softening the blow. Jenny Woolf outlines tactics for planning ahead positively

Acording to the French historian De Tocqueville, "chance does nothing that has not been prepared beforehand". But in hard economic times, although the majority of us still hold jobs, the idea of redundancy is in the air. There is no advantage in being pessimistic, but many employed executives are starting to feel that considering the possibility of redundancy is simply a practical move.

Company warning signs are obvious enough: falling revenues and sales, or encouragement for staff to retire early or remain for other jobs. Sometimes people whose companies are weak can protect their jobs by taking on extra work or paying particular attention to cost-cutting; but, says Lewis Rushbrook of CEPEC outplacement consultants, "at the end of the day, if your company closes its Leeds branch and you're in Leeds, there's not an awful lot you can do."

Mr Rushbrook believes — without belittling redundant executives' distress, or the practical difficulties they might face — that cultivating a positive attitude towards redundancy can soften its blow. He encourages his clients to think in terms of "owning" their careers, which may go through several stages with several different companies.

The career ownership concept is replacing the old paternalistic system in which a company looked

Think before the axe falls

after its employees for most of their lives and made many of their decisions — even promotions and relocations — for them. "You should now think of your career as an asset that is yours, like your car. The sooner it is 'owned' by you, with all its ups and its downs, the sooner you can control it," advises Mr Rushbrook.

This new approach is echoed by career consultant Rob Nathan. "I definitely don't think the recession is cutting down opportunities, but it is encouraging people to develop new qualities such as entrepreneurship and ability to cope with change," he says.

As well as cultivating a more flexible frame of mind, there are certain practical precautions which people can take if they are concerned about their job. Peter Smith is the London Regional Director of financial consultants Hill Martin, who specialise in retirement and redundancy planning. He believes in keeping as many options open as possible if you fear redundancy.

"One thing we recommend is reducing or eliminating debt that greatly insulates people from the effects of redundancy. Everyone should stop doing stupid things like borrowing on gold cards or credit cards."

Many people have redundancy insurance, although this is usually available only on loans and mortgages. Buying general unemployment insurance on the open market tends to be expensive, and benefits are not always particularly good. If you have unemployment insurance of any kind, now is the time to read the small print.

Some policies do not pay out in certain situations, for instance if you do not register for unemployment benefit. Generally, mortgage insurance is available only on new loans, and it is fairly inexpensive, a fact which stimulated Tynesiders John and Anne Wills to do some hard thinking. "We'd lived in our house for ten years, and it urgently



needed rot repairs costing £2,000," explains Mr Wills. "Like most people, I suppose, I was rather concerned about my job, but after some thought we took out a new mortgage loan for £22,000, insured it and paid off the £20,000

further advance we'd taken out six years previously." So far, Mr Wills has avoided redundancy, but, he says, he feels easier in his mind. "We've got rid of the rot and a big chunk of my mortgage is now covered by low-cost redundancy

insurance. It cost a £75 arrangement fee to re-jiggle things, it wouldn't be everyone's solution, but for me it was worth it."

As well as sorting out matters at home, there are useful things to do at work. Those unfortunate enough

to have to clear their desks immediately may be too shocked to assess just what they need to take. One executive who lost his job said: "As it happened, I'd read a book suggesting you took home from office files the details of everyone who could possibly be useful to you in the future. I knew how the wind was blowing and so I did. And I was damn glad to have them when I began networking for another job." Ensure, too, that you and your family make use of company benefits like Bupa check-ups.

Peter Smith also suggests examining your contract of employment to confirm what notice you are on, to check your rights and reflect on what you would say if the axe really did fall. However, all the experts caution against "job hypochondria". "Don't go around like an accident waiting to happen," advises Mr Rushbrook.

"Far better to settle down one weekend and consider yourself realistically: your skills, experience, potential and strengths, plus the things that are not so good. Consider how marketable you are, and what you can do to make yourself more marketable. Write it down. Think about it. Take control."

• CEPEC, 67 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6NY (071-930 0322); Hill Martin, Cheltenham House, 23 Clare Street, Bristol BS1 1YA (0272 279985).

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Toshiba leads the world in portable PCs. In a dramatically changing market, this leadership has been achieved through technological innovation of products and rigorous attention to quality combined with total commitment to people and the future.

An ambitious, talented and successful marketing professional is sought to meet the strategic objectives of Toshiba's PC product ranges within a highly aggressive marketplace.

Reporting to the PC Director, the prime focus is on developing and implementing strategic and tactical plans to ensure the ambitious growth of Volume, Revenue and Market Share for the portable PC range of products. There is a professional marketing team to lead and develop, and first class dealer and corporate sales teams to work with. Other areas of focus include pricing, distribution, marketing communications and market research.

Candidates must be graduates preferably with a marketing degree combined with at least 5 years'

M3/M25

team management experience in marketing, producing and implementing strategies and plans with a differentiating factor. Ability to succeed in a fast changing high volume, high technology market is crucial. Well balanced and strong leadership skills are essential as is demonstrable success in marketing strong brands through distribution, dealer and reseller networks within the computer industry or other office automation sectors. Success could possibly have been achieved with technologically advanced consumer durables of high value, profile and volume.

This is a demanding role in a tough market with a sales driven company that requires high calibre performance. If you have the motivation to succeed with Toshiba please reply by writing in confidence with your full CV and current package to Michael Fahey quoting ref 590 at Thornton Fahey, 1 Mansfield Place, London, SW1 5LT. Telephone: 071 584 6028, Fax: 071 823 7688.

THORNTON FAHEY

SEARCH AND SELECTION

TOSHIBA

071-481 4481

EXECUTIVE OPPORTUNITIES

FAX 071-782 7826



MAJOR EUROPEAN BRAND INITIATIVE

Our client, strengthened by a recent major merger and with a dynamic operation extending throughout Europe, is firmly established as a leading Computer Media manufacturer with a comprehensive range of peripherals, accessories and office automation related supplies. Revenue expectations in Europe exceed £100 million. They now seek to appoint two senior Sales Specialists who will each control a substantial facet of our client's business, as they meet the challenge of developing the organisation's sales infrastructure within the UK.

DEALER SALES MANAGER - THIRD PARTY CHANNELS

You will be responsible for establishing a network of quality computer and office supplies dealers/distributors, evaluating outlets, implementing promotional activities, handling major accounts, and ensuring optimum sales through your defined channels to market.

Possessing obvious commercial acumen, you must have a minimum of 3 years' experience of managing key distributors/dealers in the office technology related sector, outstanding interpersonal skills and a commercially aware hands-on approach. Proven line management experience would be an advantage. Ref. 6507/FHST

Besides the potential to quickly reach the highest managerial levels with one of the most successful and forward-looking players in the market, our client will offer highly competitive rewards in line with the direct influence you will exert on their

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER - RETAIL CHANNELS

Focusing on the electrical consumer retail outlets, your brief will be to powerfully increase consumer awareness of our client's brand through the development of the most extensive distribution network possible.

You will pioneer the establishment of the network of retailers and then move on to planning and building a highly motivated merchandising team, capable of working through the retail outlets. Ideally your experience will include 3 years within 'Blue-Chip' FMCG sales, responsibility for a notable National Retail Account, together with proven management skills. Ref. 6507/SB-ST

plans for dynamic growth.
For a confidential briefing, please send a full CV to CORRINE NUTT, quoting appropriate reference number, at Highfield International, 1 London Road, Newbury, Berkshire RG13 2JL. Fax: 0635 38837.

Helping you make the right choice.
EXECUTIVE SEARCH & SELECTION

Innovative use of leading edge technology, coupled with powerful marketing has established our client's position as a fast expanding user of highly advanced communication systems. These are key 12 month assignments working in a truly strategic technical group driving the complex worldwide network they have created.

These opportunities are ideal for professionals with international business experience and a broad knowledge of sophisticated communications environments who wish to utilise their proven success in developing information systems.

c.£40,000 + bonus

Communications Systems Planner

Leading a group of planners to influence the strategic direction of communications for the future of this worldwide organisation, you will need to be an excellent man manager with well developed communication skills and strong business awareness.

c.£30,000 + bonus

Communications Project Manager

With a proven record of successfully managing a variety of communications projects, you will be ready to direct and integrate the development of our client's evolving communications networks.

Our client's dynamic international environment makes these two of the most attractive assignments currently available within the industry.

Please contact Pat Stanton on 071-323 5544 until 10.00 p.m. each evening or after hours on 071-323 9045. Alternatively, send or fax your CV on 071-323 3094.

RESOURCES INTERNATIONAL PLC

31 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3SG

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Smythe Dorward Lambert, a successful, highly specialised consultancy which provides strategic communication advice to some of the world's leading corporations, wants to recruit experienced consultants to expand its core consulting team.

- The right person will:
 - have had at least three years consultancy experience with a leading management, communication or strategic consultancy
 - have practical experience in both internal and external communication planning and techniques
 - have been involved in designing and implementing change programmes for large corporations
 - have the confidence to challenge and influence top management teams
 - have a rigorous, analytical mind and keen creative skills
 - become an integral member of a small, close knit team
 - be a risk taker

If you satisfy these criteria and would like to join an entrepreneurial, pioneering consultancy where the work is demanding but fun and the rewards are closely linked to performance, please send your curriculum vitae together with a letter explaining why you are right for the post to Lynn Beaumont, Managing Director, Graduate Appointments Limited, 7a Langley Street, Covent Garden, London WC2H 9JA.

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Salary, bonus and benefits commensurate with the importance of this challenging position will be offered.

If you are interested and feel you meet our requirements, please send your CV and a covering letter indicating your current salary, to:

Jane Dalton, Advertisement Sales Manager,
Times Supplements Limited, Priory House, St John's Lane, LONDON EC1M 4BX Tel: 071-782 7620

Smith System Engineering is Europe's leading firm providing impartial advice on the application of science and technology to operational problems. This stems from our extensive expertise in state-of-the-art electronic, optical and software technologies applied to a wide range of information, communications and sensing systems.

Our continuing success in providing solutions to prestigious customers in both government and industry has created the opportunity for high-calibre, professional System Engineers to join our expanding team. In this role you will be responsible for supporting customers in formulating strategies, identifying and researching problems and procuring effective solutions.

The ideal candidates will possess a good first degree in Engineering, Computer Science, Physics or Mathematics complemented by an exceptional track record of at least three years' experience in a consulting, technical project support or systems development environment. Your background will include one or more of the following:

- Mobile communications
- Telecommunications
- Data networking
- Secure systems
- Military CIS
- Geographic Information Systems

In addition, your communication and presentation skills will be first class and you will be able to demonstrate a high degree of adaptability, enthusiasm and a commitment to excellence.

In return, Smith System Engineering offers outstanding candidates unparalleled opportunities for career advancement in a technically challenging, merit-oriented environment.

To apply, please send a current CV to the Advising Consultant, Karen Baines, at Harvey Nash Plc, Dragon Court, 27-29 Macklin Street, London, WC2B 5LX. Where possible, please include a daytime telephone number and current salary details. Alternatively, telephone on 071-333 0033. Please quote reference HN640.

Smith

System Engineering Consultants

Salary:
£25,000 to £35,000
+ Benefits

Location:
Surrey

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Customer Services Director
(Printing Industry)

We have been retained by a client with an enviable reputation in the quality commercial web market place, to appoint a Customer Services Director to co-ordinate all the internal and external activities of a highly responsive print production unit. Reporting to the Director and General Manager, your prime role will be to actively manage a team which will result in the highest level of customer service and manufacturing performance. Extensive liaison with the client base will enable you to make a major contribution to improve confidence and the profitable development of accounts. Interfacing at all levels within the company you must have experience in the effective management of customer liaison and pro-

duction control, with impeccable administration skills, geared to the efficient handling of fast moving, demanding situations. The successful candidate will almost certainly have been exposed to a similar environment and will have excellent communication skills and the ability to build long term client relationships. In all probability the prime contender will need to be over 35 to have gained sufficient experience. An excellent salary, with car, medical insurance and pension is supplemented by a substantial performance bonus. To further discuss this challenge candidates should telephone Michael Jackson on 0860 441936 weekends/evenings or 0344 845390 during office hours or write to him at the address given below.

Ducheyne Executive, International Management Recruitment, Runnymede Malthouse, Runnymede Road, Egham, Surrey, TW20 9BO

DUCHEYNE EXECUTIVE

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Customer Programmes Development Manager

Excellent salary plus car and benefits, Berkshire

Founded in 1975, Microsoft has become the leader in software for personal computers. The company offers a wide range of products and services for business and personal use, each designed with the mission of making it easier and more enjoyable for people to take advantage of the full power of personal computing every day.

The UK operation based near Reading, is a dynamic, fast moving environment which offers rapid personal development and career progression.

For a confidential discussion call Claudia Nelson or Peter Kelly today between 4.30pm & 6.00pm on (0494) 463232, or weekdays during normal working hours, or write with a full CV indicating current salary details, quoting ref. ST20992M to Wardswift Management Selection, 6 Cliveden Office Village, Lancaster Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP12 3YZ.

The Position
This is an exciting opportunity to develop unique programmes for improving the quality and efficiency of the support function that Microsoft offer to its rapidly expanding customer base.

Your role will be to create, develop and manage innovative programmes specifically designed to improve the ability of our customers to work effectively with Microsoft's products and services, and to ensure that the quality of these programmes meets our customers' requirements.

The Person
You will be a successful, results-orientated, natural leader, ideally educated to degree level with a good understanding of the PC industry.

You will be a manager with experience of leading a dynamic team and of implementing specific programmes to improve efficiency. Possessing the ability to create effective and measurable programmes, you must be an enthusiastic team player who can communicate at all levels.

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EXECUTIVE OPPORTUNITIES

LIFE & TIMES THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 24 1992

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As evocative as it is familiar, the Royal Mail insignia is a symbol of tradition and innovation, and is an integral part of everyone's life. The business of the Royal Mail is serving its customers. Led by their demands, the Royal Mail is dedicated to anticipating and satisfying market needs.

The Marketing and Sales function of the Royal Mail strategic headquarters covers Strategic Business Planning, Sales, Public Relations, Marketing and Quality. As Marketing Manager, your role is to develop strategic marketing plans over a broad range of products and services.

You will take responsibility for the Royal Mail brand, develop strategy, manage policy, oversee brand development and raise the profile of the Royal Mail in the marketplace. You will contribute to the highest level of decision making over a broad range of related business issues.

This is a new position within the Royal Mail, and it will be the responsibility of the successful candidate to develop his or her role in strategic headquarters to maximise the marketing effort, in close co-operation with the four strategic business units to ensure timely delivery of marketing initiatives.

This role calls for the candidate to have the ability to quickly and clearly identify key success criteria to resolve issues between business units, challenge traditional ideas and accepted practices if necessary, and work independently and effectively while under pressure.

Candidates will be of graduate calibre with a structured marketing background, including at least 5 years' experience in a senior role gained within a substantial service or manufacturing industry. Quality and accuracy in both written and verbal communication, including a flair for speechwriting, are essential, as is the ability to influence decisions in a tactful yet decisive manner.

To apply, please send a detailed CV, including work and home telephone numbers to LJ Associates, Recruitment Consultants, 12 Celbridge Mews, Porchester Road, London W2 6EU, quoting reference number 09/382.

Royal Mail positively encourages Equal Opportunities.

Marketing Manager

£37K + CAR + BENEFITS

LONDON



Royal Mail

FIRST CLASS POSTS

Sales and Marketing Manager

New Forest

Computational Mechanics Beasy is a small but successful company which has an international direct sales and distribution network for its engineering software products. The Company is part of a group which has an impressive track record of growth and now wishes to move into a new phase of expansion.

Reporting to the Chairman, the successful candidate will develop and expand both international direct sales and the distribution network, working closely with the distributors to maximise sales. You will also take responsibility for the preparation and production of marketing material, advertising, PR and direct mail.

If you have proven skills in the sales and marketing of this type of software product we would like to hear from you. Probably aged 30-45 you will be a self-starter who can achieve significant growth in this exciting market. Knowledge of a European language would be an advantage.

Interested? Please send your CV, including salary history to:

Key Stephen, Computational Mechanics Beasy Limited,

Ashurst Lodge, Ashurst, Southampton SO4 2AA

Closing date: 8th October 1992

Computational Mechanics



Chief Executive & Head of Finance

£55,000 + Benefits + Car

Hart is a thriving part of North-East Hampshire and its District Council is looking for a new vigorous leader of its Management Team.

The post combines the duties of the Chief Executive and Head of Finance. The successful candidate will need to be a CCA qualified accountant and may have a background in the public sector or the private sector.

There are demanding tasks to be tackled which include the need to secure success in the impending reorganisation of local government in Hampshire. Hart is looking for an open minded but decisive leader with good communication and negotiating skills, someone who inspires confidence with a proven record in the management of change and who thrives under pressure.

The terms will be negotiable and could include performance related pay. Indicative salary is £55,000 and a comprehensive benefits package including a car.

If you wish to discuss this post further, please telephone Sheila Blanchett, Head of Policy and Strategy on (0252) 622122 (ext. 333). Application forms and information packs can be requested by telephoning (0252) 811262 (24 hour answerphone). Closing date: 8th October, 1992.

HART DISTRICT COUNCIL



AES TECHNICAL AND EXECUTIVE CONSULTANTS

30 New Street, Worcester, WR1 2DR Tel: (0529) 23444 Fax: (0529) 23993

SALES AND MARKETING MANAGER (Appliance Industry)

Our client is a large multi-national manufacturer of a range of high quality electrical, electro-mechanical and electronic products for the "white goods" and small appliance industry worldwide.

The company is seeking a seasoned Sales and Marketing Manager who will already have had several years' experience supplying components to the European white goods or small appliance industry.

Probably over 30 years of age, you will be highly motivated and capable of working on your own initiative with limited supervision. Ideally you will be technically qualified and bi-lingual with excellent communication skills, since extensive European travel is envisaged.

This is an exciting opportunity for a creative and innovative manager to make a significant contribution to the company's European development. The salary package and career prospects within the group will only be limited by your aspirations and includes an attractive incentive programme.

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Our client is a major speciality chemicals company involved in the development, manufacture and marketing of a wide range of chemical products and services. With annual sales in excess of £600m, more than 65% of the group's output is produced and sold outside the UK.

Professional strategic planning is of crucial importance to the continued development of this highly-regarded multinational which seeks to continue its policy of substantial acquisition while fostering the organic growth of its very profitable focused divisions. The headquarters-based Business Research function provides essential market data, analysis and interpretive skills enabling the Board to formulate strategic investment plans.

As the Manager of this key strategy-influencing function, you will ensure that as broad a view as necessary is taken in order to identify the critical success factors. You will pursue the key issues beyond the obvious, narrow conventional boundaries and add substantially to the policy-making capability of the organisation.

You will probably have spent some part of your career in a major multinational environment possibly balanced with experience of a smaller organisation. You may have enjoyed a spell in consultancy, but whatever your background, you will offer intellect, business analytical skills, chemical industry knowledge and imagination combined with creativity and excellent people skills. Personal career potential for individuals with good science first degrees, an MBA or equivalent, and aged 35-45, is excellent.

To apply, please send full career details to Mr Amnon Needham, Ref: 5723/AN/ST, PA Consulting Group, 123 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 9SR.

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Moscow
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The total lack of good-quality voice communications in the CIS places a severe brake on its economic development, while providing a challenging opportunity for a few major organisations with a proven track record in this highly specialised area. Our client, a long-established major international trading and engineering company headquartered in the Arabian Gulf, has entered into a joint venture with some of the world's leading suppliers to the international telecommunications community. The objective: to establish a profitable private satellite telecommunications network based in Moscow.

This significant project creates an exceptional general management opportunity for someone to break new ground and be instrumental in the development of the telecommunications strategy for the CIS.

Reporting to the London-based General Manager, International Business Development, this high-profile position calls for an ambitious, entrepreneurial individual with experience of voice or data networking services in a terrestrial or satellite telecommunications environment. Your well-rounded business background embraces hardware marketing, office network development and management, and some P&L and international experience. Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to negotiate with senior customer management are essential.

An internationally competitive benefits package includes housing allowance; children's school fees; fares home for staff member and family; 5 weeks' annual leave; all relocation costs paid on appointment and resettlement; health, life and accident insurance.

To apply, please send full career details indicating current salary, to Mr Amnon Needham, Ref: 5708/AN/ST, PA Consulting Group, 123 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 9SR.

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BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIST

CORPORATE PLANNING AND ANALYSIS

Northern Home Counties
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The ongoing development of this major manufacturing group with worldwide operations, which has undergone a period of fundamental change and growth, demands the application of specialised strategic planning skills.

A high-calibre Business Development Strategist is now needed to support the Head Office strategic function by assessing business areas selected for development, preparing strategic studies, evaluating major acquisition projects, and updating strategic plans to ensure the company achieves its objectives for the 1990s. Career development will be within

strategic services or into one of the operating businesses.

Ideally aged 30-35 and educated to degree level in chemistry or a related discipline, you must have practical business experience gained in the chemical or a related industry. You should also have a good understanding of financial and business analysis, sound commercial judgement and strategic flair gained from either practical experience or an MBA course. Good communication skills, verbal and written, and the ability to think laterally, practically and conceptually are essential. Initiative, an incisive intellect and the presence to work with senior executives and managers are important.

To apply, please send your cv to Andrew Millard, Ref: 5725/AGM/ST, PA Consulting Group, 123 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 9SR. Tel: 071-730 9000. Fax: 071-333 5050.

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EXECUTIVE OPPORTUNITIES

FAX 071-782 7826

COMMERCIAL MANAGER
West of Scotland

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The role is both strategic and operational and demands the ability to challenge accepted practices and optimise commercial advantage in purchasing, supply and customer liaison by personally building and influencing multi-level relationships with key decision-makers from both within and outside the organisation.

You must be a graduate, possibly an MBA, with

c£40,000 & Car

substantial commercial management experience gained from a complex business, manufacturing or project-orientated environment and be able to demonstrate clearly enhanced financial performance as a direct result of your actions. Strong communication and leadership skills are essential and must accompany an astute and resilient character with a flair for re-directing an organisation to achieve improved financial performance. The prospect of advancement for the high achiever are good. Interested candidates should submit a comprehensive career resumé quoting Reference 11233/ST. The confidentiality of all approaches is strictly guaranteed.

Varley Walker & Partners
182 Portland Road
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 1DJ
Tel: 091-221 0101 Fax: 091-221 0842

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Human Resource Consultants

LONDON BIRMINGHAM NEWCASTLE MANCHESTER GENEVA

MANUFACTURING MANAGER
Capital Equipment
North East £40,000 & Car

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Reporting to the Managing Director, you will be fully accountable for optimising the operational efficiency of this modern facility that combines the most advanced manufacturing technology with a highly skilled, committed and flexible workforce. Operating with considerable freedom and autonomy you will make key contributions towards the overall management and direction of the business by effectively meeting the critical requirements of quality, cost and delivery.

Aged 35 to 45 and educated to at least HNC level you will have an outstanding record of success achieved in a senior manufacturing role in a highly advanced assembly and fabrication operation where modern and progressive operational standards are the norm. You must be assertive and have the visible 'hands on' leadership and man management style to enable you to align the commitment of the entire organisation behind challenging business objectives. The profile, scope and rewards of this role are unlimited to the appointee who makes a major impact on the development of this organisation. Interested candidates should submit a comprehensive career resume quoting Reference 11234/ST. The confidentiality of all approaches is strictly guaranteed.

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182 Portland Road
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£45K to £55K • Car • Outstanding benefits including mortgage subsidy • Thames Valley

A leading financial institution has taken the strategic decision to develop a client-server, open systems, distributed processing architecture. Exploiting all the potential of Windows, Image Processing and other high-level technologies, they aim to transform service standards, radically reduce costs and become ultra-responsive to changes in the market. Their budget is in excess of £20 million for a project that will completely re-engineer their business processes and, ultimately, re-shape this entire sector of the financial services industry.

Such a radical change of approach demands the creation of a strong service-oriented IT culture that is sharply focused on users' requirements. The priority is to find someone who can define these needs and deliver the solution, expand the help-desk facilities and sustain service levels. That is the challenge of Service Management - a high profile post which will grow with the delivery of the new systems and eventually carry responsibility for the total IT infrastructure.

This demanding brief calls for a high-calibre graduate achiever - probably in their early 30's. Someone who has

worked with an innovative user of client-server technology or in a management consultancy. A systems professional with in-depth knowledge of the UNIX/distributed processing environment - gained from either a development or networking perspective - and experience of providing effective production support. Above all, this self-starter must have a talent for developing excellent relationships with users, getting to the root of their requirements, grasping the business issues and then building and maintaining this quality service-oriented environment.

The package is exceptional, with a base salary of £45K to £55K supplemented by a full range of benefits including a car, a non-contributory pension, a mortgage subsidy and, where appropriate, generous relocation assistance.

Can you deliver? If you are positive of your answer, please call our consultant Carol Weatherall on 071-253 7172 during office hours or on 0836 219419 evenings and weekends. Alternatively, send your cv, quoting ref:568, to her at JM Management Services Limited, Chandos House, 12-14 Berry Street, London EC1V 0AQ. Fax 071-253 0420.

JULY 1992



Product Manager

West London

Circa £20,000 + Car

The continuing success of Renault UK Limited together with commitment to training and career development is providing excellent career opportunities throughout the Company.

This challenge will attract an ambitious mature graduate with motor industry experience gained either in the field or central sales/marketing function.

You must be an excellent communicator in both the written and spoken word, fully conversant in French.

The successful candidate will be responsible for the management of his/her model lines including strategy, product specification and pricing as well as the coordination of launch programmes for new models.

To apply, please send a full CV to Mrs Sian Vernon, Personnel Officer, Renault UK Limited, Western Avenue, London, W3 0RZ to arrive no later than 28 September. Renault UK Limited, Western Avenue, London W3 0RZ.

- The Meat and Livestock Commission sponsors and promotes meat and its products as part of a modern healthy diet.

- Headquarters in Milton Keynes, we have offices in Brussels, Paris, Frankfurt, Madrid and Milan and at six sites throughout Great Britain.

- We are experts in industry economics and competitive strategy, marketing and promotion, animal and meat science and product development on behalf of the industry.

HEAD OF EXPORT MARKETING
Milton Keynes
c. £40,000

British meat exports exceed £500 million and are growing. The Meat and Livestock Commission's Export Marketing Department works closely with British meat exporters to develop increased export business throughout the world. There are detailed export marketing programmes for the six priority markets in Europe as well as a range of development activities and services for exporters.

The Head of Export Marketing will be responsible for the vital role of leading the team of domestic and international specialists to achieve the Commission's strategic Export Marketing objectives.

In order to continue and develop this dynamic and challenging role, you should have proven managerial experience in the field of both staff management and cost control. The skills to motivate and develop a team and the ability to construct strategic marketing plans are both essential.

A sound knowledge of the international meat industry and experience of communications at a senior level within that industry would be a distinct advantage. Linguistic and presentation skills are also desirable.

Benefits include a Commission car and membership of BUPA.

Please apply in writing enclosing full CV to Ms Vanessa Green (Assistant Personnel Officer), Meat and Livestock Commission, Winterhill House, Snowdon Drive, Milton Keynes MK6 1AX. Closing date 9th October 1992.

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER
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The position requires a person with a high degree of discipline, organisational ability, and meticulous attention to detail is essential.

Immediate vacancy, please send full C.V. to:

Mr Peter Kite (Managing Director) Ref FC1

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We have a number of vacancies throughout the UK and our clients include some of the most well known and successful companies in the retail, manufacturing and service sectors.

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Fax: 0432 631792,

or phone 0181 8562112

Roger Dodd: 0432 634206

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RETAIL OPERATIONS

Thames Valley

c£65,000,car

The client is a major organisation and a household name with a substantial and expanding national network of specialist retail outlets which offer a range of consumer services and high quality merchandise predominantly in the motoring and travel sectors. This position encompasses a mixture of store operations management and marketing responsibilities with particular emphasis on developing and enhancing customer flow through the sound management of stores and staff and a very selective development of its product range. The key dimensions are turnover £70m, over 130 outlets, 600 staff and around 1000 items in the product range. Reporting to a Divisional Board level. Candidates, aged 32 - 45, should be graduates and experienced in operations management at a senior level for a specialist retailer with a quality name or a large consumer services organisation. Additionally, exposure to range or product marketing and development is also required, perhaps gained in a head office context. A leader of people and developer of quality standards is required. The package is excellent; salary quoted includes bonus potential and there are many other benefits. Advancement is based on achievement and the client operates an open modern management philosophy. Full relocation costs will be offered.

Please forward in absolute confidence a full curriculum vitae to Adderley Featherstone plc, 6 Lisbon Square, Leeds LS1 4LY. Tel: 0532 444074. Fax: 0532 451578.

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This role is the single focal point for all communication with the customer. You will have responsibility for co-ordinating support and influencing the use of technology within the account, thus developing sales opportunities and ensuring customer satisfaction. Taking technical ownership of the account, you will be sharing responsibility for developing and implementing strategy with the sales team.

You will obviously have highly developed communications skills, experience of working with a Vendor or Services provider and so be well-versed in all aspects of the selling cycle. You will have a strong technical background with thorough knowledge of database design, administration or performance optimisation, coupled with experience in project management and implementation of large scale Relational Database Systems. Ref. 812A

Systems Consultants

This role requires innovative professionals who can relate to the business issues and help build large scale Relational Database Systems. You should be technically proficient in RDBMS, Application Languages, CASE Tools and operating systems.

In addition, you will have an awareness of the benefits that Information Technology can bring to a business. Successful candidates will also combine strong interpersonal skills with an enthusiasm for working closely with customers in a pre and post sales consultancy role.

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Alternatively call today (Sunday)
between 6pm and 8pm on
031-943 2577.



Cathy Tracey & Associates Ltd,
Staverton House, 3-5 Easthamstead Road, Wokingham,
Berkshire, RG11 2EH. Tel: 0734 771100. Fax: 0734 771223

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Redrow Homes is one of the U.K.'s most successful housebuilders. Our financial results to June 1992 will reflect a significant increase in both turnover and legal completions, combined with a highly creditable profit performance.

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If you are an experienced Managing Director within the housebuilding industry and feel capable of meeting the challenge of this dynamic and demanding position, then forward a full CV in strict confidence.

The remuneration package includes an excellent salary, combined with a highly beneficial share option scheme, executive motor car and all other benefits associated with a post of this seniority.

Please apply in confidence to:
Paul Pedley, Deputy Chairman,
Redrow Group Plc., Redrow House,
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to attract mature, confident, business-like people. If that sounds like you, please find out more - contact the manager at your nearest branch, or write to Jim Capper, Sales Support Manager, Eagle Star Financial Solutions, Sales & Marketing Centre, Eagle Star House, Bath Road, Cheltenham GL53 7LQ, quoting reference ST1.

Please ring during office hours:

Bristol - Jerry Hopton - 0454 202211

Cardiff - Rob King - 0222 380666

Hereford - Fraser Graham - 0992 501931

Leeds - Jeff Wolfe - 0532 304888

Manchester - Graham Butler - 0622 671499

Northampton - Ken Norden - 0504 832677

Newcastle - David Cooke - 0603 767767

Plymouth - Bob Gordon - 0798 875567

Southampton - Steve Gilbert - 0703 235244
Sutton - Don Royal - 081 770 1577
Taunton - Mike Brightwell - 0823 333110
Uckfield - Steve Lake - 0825 760123
West London - Alan Pickering - 081 897 9119
West Midlands - David Dawson - 0675 466433

Please ring during office hours:

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Success has been founded upon progressive business policies and an impressive Blue-Chip customer base.

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The successful candidate will have several years brand marketing experience working in a Multi-National Company as well as having had marketing experience at a senior level in a smaller organisation.

Responsibilities of the job will be:-

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This is a first rate opportunity for an ambitious individual to work in a small and expanding Company environment and who has a hands on approach to all aspects of the job.

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Your role, in this second tier post, will be to lead the development of key areas of administration through a successful transition to corporate status and then develop these to a high level to take full advantage of the opportunities available. You will also work at board level as Clerk to the Corporation.

Our objective is to recruit an exceptional manager, who combines vision and commitment with an outstanding track record in financial and/or human resource management at a strategic level, and the capacity to give effective leadership to all areas of corporate services.

You can obtain further details and an application form by contacting the Personnel Manager on 081 470 5047 (24 hour answerphone) or 081 472 1480 (ext. 40376), Newham Community College, East Ham Centre, High Street, London E6 4ER.

The closing date for applications is 2nd October 1992.

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European Marketing Director

This is a new position with a world leader in advanced flexible packaging technology.

It recognises the need to develop imaginative marketing strategies to promote their latest technological initiatives in packaging systems to the diverse range of markets within the food industry. The aim is to stimulate sales growth through distribution in mainland Europe and develop a wider added philosophy in the UK direct sales force. Based in the UK, this is a Europe-wide role for a Marketing Director whose style is to lead by example. We are looking for a marketing professional who can offer:

- ★ considerable experience in industrial marketing
- ★ a wide network of contacts in food-related industries in Europe
- ★ evidence of ability to build long-term relationships with key clients
- ★ ability to negotiate with fluency in German and English
- ★ technical/science qualification followed by MBA or Marketing Diploma

My clients, a privately owned company now entering their third decade of global expansion, offer a competitive, negotiable remuneration package and equity participation based on personal performance. Please write enclosing your career profile to: Mrs Sue Spring, Rydal Spring & Associates, 11 Wood Lane, Kidmore End, Reading RG4 9BS. Tel (0734) 722912.

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The role calls for a well developed understanding of the motivation, control, and commercial aspects of distributors in a changing European environment. This should have been gained in a progressive sales management career within an engineered products environment, and must have included working with distributors on a multi-national basis.

Candidates, probably aged 35-45, should ideally demonstrate a combination of technical and business qualifications with a positive and committed personal style.

Applicants of either sex should apply in confidence, to Bob Wilson on (0962) 842424 (24-hour service) Fax No. (0962) 841998 or write to Johnson Wilson & Partners, Clarendon House, Hyde Street, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 7DX, quoting ref: 428W.

Johnson Wilson & Partners
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Chief Executive

Wiltshire Education Business Partnership

£30,000 + Car

Wiltshire

The Wiltshire Education Business Partnership, the outcome of a commitment between the Local Education Authority, Wiltshire Training and Enterprise Council and the wider Business Community, aims to facilitate a close, constructive working relationship locally between Education and Business.

The Partnership is to be responsible for promoting Business Influence in the Curriculum and associated activities. It will also co-ordinate activity between Schools, Colleges and Employers in areas such as Careers and Adult Guidance, and Vocational Training and Education, including setting and achieving of local Training and Education Targets.

Heading a small team, you will weld together the diverse activities of the Partnership into a cohesive operation, influencing partnership activities and holding budget responsibility for certain programmes. You will deliver strategies formulated by the Board, and encourage co-operation and teamwork between Schools, Colleges and Businesses, encouraging the development of local links.

Currently residing within reasonable travelling distance of Swindon and fully qualified to Degree or equivalent, you must be a convincing communicator and presenter. Alert to the implications of sensitive issues, you should nonetheless possess the determination to influence decision makers and implement the concepts that will bring success to the Partnership. Commercial and management skills, and an understanding of current trends in Education and Business needs are essential, together with a vision of the potential to be achieved through enhanced co-operation.

Initially a Contract for 3 years, the package includes salary c£30,000, Car and benefits. Please write with a full CV to Bob Little or Veronica Harrold. Fax available for last applications.

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0666 825800

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Please apply in writing, enclosing a copy of your CV, to:

Mr R L White, Prismgraphics Limited,
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Call Wilson McKenzie on 071 920 0480 to arrange an initial meeting, for Manchester call 061 834 2189 and Midlands 0788 546167.

For further information and an application form, please write to the Secretary (ST2).

IL DM
INSTITUTE OF LOGISTICS & DISTRIBUTION MANAGEMENT

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

The ILDM is the professional management association providing services and support to logistics and supply chain managers.

A new Director-General is being sought to replace Raymond Bradley when he retires in 1993. The Institute not only provides services to its members but also promotes performance and innovation, publishes books and learned papers and has an active education and training programme. Although primarily a UK institution, the ILDM is active in continental Europe and presents itself as an authoritative centre of expertise on logistics issues worldwide.

071-481 4481

EXECUTIVE OPPORTUNITIES

FAX 071-782 7826

TELEPHONE SALES MANAGER

Bristol

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Our Client is a long established service organisation which has, over the last five years, invested heavily in the growth and development of its business. As a result, the company has experienced dramatic growth in sales/revenues from both the individual and corporate sectors, in which the telesales operation has made a considerable contribution.

This new appointment is one that is crucial to the next planned phase of growth. Assuming responsibility for the existing telesales operation, your brief will be to recruit, train, manage and motivate a diverse and lively sales force maximising both individual, and team, potential.

Your role will also encompass the setting and achievement of aggressive revenue and sales targets, new product development and liaison with senior colleagues.

Reporting to a Senior Sales Manager, the post is relatively autonomous with ample support available through the existing structure. You should possess at least five years experience of a similar environment, at least two of which will have been spent in a management position. Enthusiasm, commitment and the ability to lead from the front are all prerequisites.

Rewards include a negotiable salary as indicated which includes a fully expensed, quality company car, backed by an achievable incentive scheme and other large company benefits, together with real career development opportunities.

Please send your full CV, quoting ref. ST/165 to Hall Harrison Cowley, 32 Queen Square, Bristol BS1 4NQ. Applications will be forwarded direct to our Client, therefore please list separately any companies to whom you do not wish your application forwarded.

Closing date for receipt of applications: 9 October 1992.

HALL HARRISON COWLEY
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IBI International is an intergovernmental organisation funded by the World Bank's bibliographies, databases and agricultural science subjects. Its programme also undertakes funded research into environmental and environmental issues principally for the developing world.

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A general understanding required, therefore, are strong analytical skills, a good record in marketing at a strategic level, and a knowledge and understanding of the intricacies of the environmental issues concerned.

This is a challenging position and only those with substantial commercial experience and a relevant professional background will be considered. Further particulars are available on request to IBI International. Applications are requested in the form of a letter establishing your credentials for the position, and enclosing a full CV with the names, address and telephone numbers of three referees. These should not be contacted unless you are under consideration for shortlisting, and then only with your specific agreement.

Interviews will be held in mid-October. Closing date for applications is 2nd October 1992.



IBI International
Wallingford, Oxon OX10 8BE, UK
Telephone (0891) 422111
Telex 802101 IBINTL G Fax 0891 422001
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Closing date for applications for the scheme: 5th January.

For further details and an application form, post the coupon below to: Supt. John Parker-Jones BA (Hons), Room 553, Home Office, Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT.

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Closing date for applications for the scheme: 5th January.

For further details and an application form, post the coupon below to: Supt. John Parker-Jones BA (Hons), Room 553, Home Office, Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT.

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PLEASE SEND ME FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE POLICE SERVICE ACCELERATED PROMOTION SCHEME FOR GRADUATES.

I am a final year undergraduate graduate I would like to attend a familiarisation course (Apply before Nov 24th) Please tick.

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If you're under 27 years of age and believe you're right for the challenge, we'd like to hear from you. Please send detailing evidence of organisational leadership or team building experience, and include a full CV and recent photograph to: Director of Graduate Recruitment, Aldi GmbH & Co KG, Wellington Park, Wigston, Leicestershire LE12 8ZP. Or alternatively, write to: Human Resources Department, Aldi GmbH & Co KG, Townhead Hall Road, Smethwick Industrial Estate, Smethwick, West Midlands, West Midlands, B66 2EP.

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Cambridge

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Hence the reason why companies, large and small, turn to us.

Ours is an enabling role - helping organisations realise and exploit the commercial potential of new technologies - and it has made Scientific Generics Europe's leading business and technology consulting organisation.

Generics' relationship with its clients is one of close partnership. Our services range from process and product development, through technology innovation to technical audit and strategic business planning. Driven by a truly interdisciplinary approach in a peer group environment, our future depends on the original creative input of individuals of real professional stature, who combine first class technical expertise with strengths in building client relationships and driving business initiatives. We are looking for a small number of extremely talented people, with both high academic achievement and an excellent industrial track record, to join our team.

Electronic and Sensor Systems

Our work in the field of electronic systems covers a wide range of technical approaches and applications: sensing systems based on magnetic techniques are a major area of expertise.

You'll be joining a team with a world class reputation, and in addition to a successful development background in analogue systems, sensing, or signal processing, you will need an impressive track record in taking projects from concept through to manufacture. The ability to interface with clients at the highest levels is essential.

Food Sector Manager

To head our new food sector consulting group we need a professional with at least 5 years' experience in the food or beverage industry, where you have established an outstanding track record in new product or process innovation.

Experience as a business and/or technology consultant would of course be highly desirable, as would an MBA or equivalent experience in business management.

Technology Management

You may currently be involved in consultancy, or have an MBA and a technology background, or be a physical sciences graduate who has developed over several years into senior commercial management.

With the aim of helping clients to exploit fully their own R&D assets, as well as acting in a liaison capacity between technical and commercial experts, you will need a substantial track record in the analysis and formulation of business strategies.

This is a powerful and stimulating role which will place you at the centre of events in the planning of business initiatives: you will assess client needs and coordinate the application of financial, legal, scientific and marketing resources.

As well as the variety and stimulation of working at the highest levels of industry and technology, you can look forward to an attractive rewards package which includes relocation expenses and company car.

Please send a full CV to Michelle Keeley at Scientific Generics Ltd., King's Court, Kirtwic Road, Cambridge, CB4 2PF. Tel: (0223) 424242. Fax: (0223) 424281.

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Women trapped in training

The failure of women to become consultants is causing shortages, Joan Llewelyn Owens writes

Almost equal numbers of men and women qualify from medical school, yet women hold only 15 per cent of consultant posts. Only 3 per cent of consultants in surgical specialities are women, and only 1 per cent of these are general surgeons.

Concerned about this imbalance back in 1988, the Department of Health commissioned a study of doctors and their careers by Dr Isobel Allen. Her report made the point that in general, women medical students were more strongly motivated than men towards a medical career, and often better suited to a caring profession. They progressed well through medical school, house officer and senior house officer grades, but at registrar level they progressed far less quickly than males.

As a result, a working party was convened to focus principally on three concerns: under-representation of women at consultant level; opportunities for part-time working, and equal opportunities in appointments procedures.

At the 1991 launch of the working party report, "Women Doctors and their Careers", the government announced provision of £1.5 million for several initiatives. These were to include new part-time training posts, increasing the fee for the doctors' retainer scheme from £155 to £290 a year to allow doctors under 55 with short-term domestic commitments or ill-health to keep in touch, and the creation of a scheme to increase the number of women in surgical specialties.

So what has been holding women back? Why have so many dropped out from higher medical training? Male attitudes and patronage were perceived by trainees surveyed by Dr Allen to militate against surgical careers for women.

The length of the higher training is another obstacle. It takes at least nine years, or 11 in the case of obstetrics and gynaecology. Peter Saunders, a Fellow of the Royal



The first part-time senior registrar: Bryony Ackroyd in general surgery at York District Hospital

You hear people saying, "She is only part-time". It is thought a bit second-class. We have to change that attitude'

easy option. It can involve a working week of about 45 hours, which would be considered full-time work in other EC countries.

When the government asked the Association of Surgeons what sort of population each consultant surgeon should cover, the answer was 30,000. The actual figure averages 30,000. In obstetrics and gynaecology, Peter Saunders says, Britain has the lowest number of consultants per head of population in Europe.

Physicians are in short supply, too. The Royal College of Physicians, in its recent submission to the Medical Manpower Standing Advisory Committee, speaks of a shortfall of 2,111 consultants in various specialities, against a total of 3,473 consultants. If more women qualified as consultants, these shortages could be at least partially remedied.

Bryony Ackroyd, FRCS, is the

first and only part-time senior registrar in general surgery, and is the sole survivor of 11 people in general surgery who have tried to follow the part-time route since 1979. "Before you get a part-time post," she says, "there are several hoops to jump through."

To get such a post, necessary because of her three-year-old daughter and 82-year-old mother who lives with her, she had to leave Scotland, where her husband is a consultant, and move to York.

Asked if she had met with male prejudice, Dr Ackroyd replies, "Most of my female surgical colleagues say that generally people could not have been more helpful, although in one or two isolated cases they say they have been discriminated against. I do not believe that the reason why so few women are in consultant posts has to do with prejudice."

"It is the demands of the job. I get my daughter to the nursery by 8am and am doing a ward round at 8.15. Some days I may not get away before seven or eight. On one occasion, I started at 10am in the theatre and got out at one o'clock the following morning. It was a great day. You get hooked."

Dr Ackroyd is a member of the RCS working party exploring the role of women in surgery. She would like to see more childcare ("it costs me a fortune"), more streamlined training and an end to the open-ended nature of training posts, which give no guarantee of progress from career registrar to senior registrar.

"You can be stuck in a registrar's job for years without getting a senior job. The Royal College of Surgeons is working on that, and there is a proposal to abolish the jump from career registrar to senior registrar, making the whole of the training a continuum. I am also fighting to overcome discrimination against part-time trainees."

"I had to move from Scotland to England, and if I had been full-time my expenses would have been paid. Mine, on the other hand, were not."

LIFE AFTER REDUNDANCY Honesty the best policy

THE dilemma for anyone with a history of mental illness who has been made redundant and is looking for another job is one worthy of Shakespeare — "To tell or not to tell?" Either course carries risk.

Unless you are dealing with a highly enlightened employer, letting the company know is tantamount to kissing the job goodbye. However, withholding information about your condition if it is asked for gives an employee the legal right to leave if the truth subsequently leaks out.

Why are employers so median in their attitudes to mental illness? The problem is an inability to distinguish between a serious condition and one that has relatively few effects on performance.

Kate Christie conducted a study on employer's attitudes to mental illness when she was the chairman of the Recruitment Society, a professional body made up of employers, recruitment consultants and recruitment advertisers. She found the "misconceptions and stereotyping" about the nature and causes of many psychiatric conditions.

"Although many recruiters were sympathetic towards the problems of individuals, they failed as employers to distinguish between different types of mental illness and the effect these are likely to have on productivity and continuity of employment," Ms Christie says.

Among larger employers, where attitudes to mental illness have shifted in recent years, the problem is more to do with uncertainty about the length of time sufferers will need to recover from each episode.

Mike Turner, a consultant acting as a medical adviser to several City firms, says: "Employers want medical problems to fall into two categories — either someone is 100 per cent

fit, in which case he or she should be at his desk getting on with the job — or unfit, in which case he should be at home."

The difficulty with the period after a psychiatric episode is that the employee is often well enough to return but only with shortened hours or a lesser workload."

So what should job hunters in these circumstances do?

- If you are seeking a job, and you still suffer from regular episodes of the illness that involve extended stays at home or in hospital, think carefully before you withhold information about your condition at the medical check-up.

If the employer has been told about the illness and still takes you on, he or she cannot sack you out of hand if something goes wrong.

If you lie and get the job, the pressure of concealing the illness could affect your mental stability. A more sensible choice would be to enlist the support of your GP or psychiatrist and discuss the problem with the company doctor.

- If you are applying for a job and you have a history of mental illness that no longer affects you, or you suffer from sporadic episodes that do not keep you away from work for long, you may have built up a good enough record to argue that this is not preventing your carrying out your responsibilities.

Among larger employers, where attitudes to mental illness have shifted in recent years, the problem is more to do with uncertainty about the length of time sufferers will need to recover from each episode.

Consult a lawyer if necessary. You may lose your job, but you will receive compensation.

MICHEL SYRETT

• For further advice, contact the Legal Unit, MIND, 22 Harley Street, London W1N 2ED (071-637 0741).

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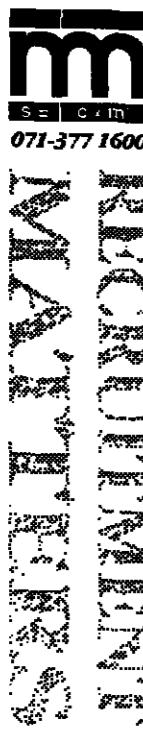
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LIFE & TIMES THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 24 1992

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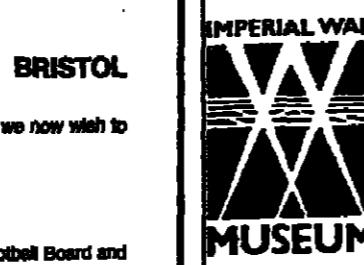
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For further details contact: Ms Marion Christensen, The Royal Academy of Engineering, 2 Little Smith Street, London SW1P 3DL Telephone: 071-222 2688. Quote Ref. AV/TT.

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We seek to fill a secretarial vacancy which is at the very heart of editorial and managerial decision making in BBC TV News.

You need to combine excellent secretarial and organisational skills with the ability to maintain high office standards without the need for close supervision. The pace of work will, at times, be demanding so you must enjoy working under the pressure of tight deadlines and be able to assess priorities. You will need to have the confidence to deal with a broad range of people, and be aware of the need for confidentiality.

In addition an interest in news and current affairs will be a definite advantage.

Starting salary £15,000 p.a. Based West London.

For an application form contact (quote ref. 10008/T) BBC Corporate Recruitment Services, PO Box 7000, London W1Z 7ZY. Tel: 081-745 7000. Minicom 081-702 3161.

Application forms to be returned by September 30th.

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Interested applicants should submit a detailed curriculum vitae in strict confidence to Martyn Smith, Michael Page Finance, Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH. Tel: 071 831 0000.

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LYNDON AND THE WOMEN Has feminism failed?

• Feminists of the New Left appropriated the language of class antagonism ... and misappropriated it to political and personal relations between men and women.

• The women's movement has been left with ... the lingo of totalitarian intolerance with which to support the claim that women, uniquely, were the victims of disadvantage.

• How could it have happened that a social phenomenon which results in 640 women and their children seeking refuge and care should have commanded massive, highly emotional and accusatory coverage? What the hell has happened to ... that the plight of 640 women should be treated with ... more sympathy and political energy than, say, the million or more people who have no home?

• Men have come to be the butts of a universal prejudice, voiced by influential figures and sanctioned by a general consent.

SUCH ARE the views of Neil Lyndon, whose new book, *No More Sex War*, to be published next Monday, has angered women, including Nigella Lawson ("baffling"), Clare Short (Lyndon must be "uncomfortable with masculinity"), Carmen Callil ("it could be something to do with size?"), Joan Bakewell ("he is impotent") and Lynn Barber (she needs a good bump-up with a nice girl).

YOU CAN hear Lyndon put his views at first hand and see him questioned by two leading women writers. Simply return the coupon below for tickets to the debate on women, at the Institute of Education, Bedford Way, London, on October 6 at 7.30pm. The speakers will be Neil Lyndon, seconded by Kenneth Minogue, and Yvonne Roberts, seconded by Beatrice Campbell.

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Please send me invitation(s) at £10 (students & OAPs £5) each for the women debate on October 6.

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LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of meeting of creditors pursuant to section 96 Insolvency Act 1986. Creditors held pursuant to section 4(1)(c) of the Insolvency Act 1986, of the amount due on or before the day of September, 1992, can be entitled to receive notice of the time and place of the meeting of creditors to be held on the 2nd day of October, 1992, at 7.30 pm at the office of *Boissey & Co*, 100 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3AB.

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